



Welcome to our
summer term
edition of

Grapevine, as usual we
have lots of things to tell you
about and a myriad of things/projects for
you to get involved with.

Firstly I would like to say thank you to all of our members and guests that attend our **AGM on the 11th June** and I hope you enjoyed the evening as much as I did. It is always a pleasure to see so many of you together and also to celebrate the achievements of the young people that we work with. I am sure like me you were all very impressed with our two **award winners** this year; and our thanks also go to the two organisations that nominated them - **Witham Boys Brigade** and **Chelmsford YMCA**, I know it is a testament to these organisations for the way they nurture and support their members.

Congratulations to the **Cirdan Trust** for being one of the two specific charities that the new High Sheriff, Sarah Courage

has committed to support from her fundraising activities during the year.

We are now going into our second year of funding from the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC). Whilst we will continue to develop our cluster groups (**ECVYS and the Children & Families Network** - please see contact details below) we will be focusing this year on workforce development. We will achieve this by continuing to signpost you to **multi agency training around CAF, ContactPoint and Safer Recruitment**. We are at this present time working with ContactPoint and the Essex Safeguarding Board Training Group to produce a training package(s). Please look out for these dates; they will take place in the autumn term.

CWDC have produced 'The Common Core of skills and knowledge for the children's workforce'. The '**Common Core**' lists six areas of skills and knowledge that everyone who works with children and young people needs to know. Their aim is to provide children and young people with the best services they can have. **ECVYS,**

working in partnership with Essex County Council is putting together a training package that will allow voluntary sector groups to easily evidence these skills; you probably already have most of these skills and knowledge, but there may be a few you want to develop, especially as they are recognised across all children's services! If you are interested in finding out more please contact the office.

We will of course also be continuing our **bursary scheme** this year (please see form attached) this can be accessed through the five cluster groups (co-terminus with PCT areas)

Our partnership with Essex Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service (**EYPDAS**) continues and the training package for trainers will be available shortly. Please see below for dates of the first cohort

The Training Package will consist of three modules over three half-days
All three days must be attended
Saturday 31st January 2009
Saturday 7th February 2009
Saturday 7th March 2009
Times and venue to be confirmed

I am sure a lot of you will have come across a new acronym '**ISA**' or perhaps like me you thought it was the 'old' information sharing and assessment.....
No, it stands for '**Independent Safeguarding Authority**'. From the **12th October 2009** individuals will need to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority if they are to work or volunteer with children and/or vulnerable adults in a regulated activity.

The cost for an individual to apply to register with the ISA will be a one-off, lifetime fee of £64. (**free for volunteers**) You will be able to check an individual's

ISA-registration status online or as part of an Enhanced CRB check.

The ISA is a Non-Departmental Public Body set up by the Home Office to provide a new **vetting and barring service** for those working with children and vulnerable adults. The ISA is independent of Government and run by Civil Servants. The ISA only covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland - Scotland has its own equivalent scheme.

It will be illegal to employ someone who is not registered with ISA, but organisations will be given up to 5 years to ensure all current employees and volunteers are ISA-registered. The ISA does not replace the CRB.

On that note may I wish you all a very good summer (hopefully lots of sunshine!!) enjoy your camps and activities and we look forward to welcoming you back in the Autumn Term.

Brenda

Cluster Lead Contacts

Mid Essex - Braintree, Maldon and Chelmsford Contact: Jane Youdale 01245 445444 countymanager@essexpsla.com
North East - Tendring & Colchester Contact: Dan Kessler 01206 579080 dankessler@btconnect.com
South East -Castle point and Rochford (Southend) Contact: Alice Smith 07999 534398 asmith@chelmsford.anglican.org
West Essex – Uttlesford, Harlow and Epping Contact: Margaret Shanks 01371 878400 margaretcvs@btconnect.com
South West – Basildon and Brentwood (Thurrock) Contact: Jane Youdale 01245 445444 countymanager@essexpsla.com



SPOTLIGHT ON AN ORGANISATION

Children Missing from Education

Did you know that Essex County Council has an officer in post responsible for tracking, tracing and identifying all children in Essex missing from education?

Back in February 2007 all local authorities were given a statutory duty to have an officer responsible for identifying children missing from education. This is not to be confused with children who truant or “bunk off” from school some days or children whose parents have chosen to educate them otherwise than at school. These are children who are not receiving an education because they do not have a school place either because they are new to Essex or for some reason they have fallen out of the education system. In 2004 the government published an Ofsted report that estimated that 10,000 children are missing from education at any one time across the country. These children may be at danger from exploitation, physical abuse, illegal working and anti-social behaviour and also will not be receiving the education to which they are entitled. Figures kept in Essex by Julie Keating,

the Children Missing from Education Senior Officer for Essex County Council, reveal that since September 2007 just under 500 children have been identified as missing from education in Essex. However, without doubt there are more children in Essex that we do not yet know about and who need help and support in accessing an appropriate education.

Julie is very keen to spread the word amongst all professionals and members of the public who have contact with young people that there is someone available to help these young people get back into education. If anyone has any concerns that a young person they know is not receiving an education then please let Julie know so she can make contact and ensure someone is able to work with the young person and their family to ensure they are supported and returned to education as soon as possible.

If anyone would like to find out more about children missing from education then Julie is very happy to discuss her role and is also keen to visit and talk to groups about this very serious matter.

To find out more or to contact Julie please call 01245 436741 or email Julie.keating@essexcc.gov.uk

CONSULTATION Youth Alcohol Action Plan

The Youth Alcohol Action Plan (YAAP) has been published jointly by the DCSF, the Home Office and the Department of Health building on last year's *Safe. Sensible. Social* strategy. The YAAP sets out a number of measures including giving police the powers to disperse under-18s who are drinking and behaving anti-socially from any location and extending alcohol arrest-referral pilots so that under-18s arrested for alcohol-related offences benefit from a brief intervention with a trained worker.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/youthalcohol/>

A consultation on the proposals will run until 7 July:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1557>

CONTACTPOINT Improving Communication

Making sure the right people have access to the right information at the right time. The ‘**Every Child Matters**’ programme focuses on improving outcomes so that all children are healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being. This revolutionary agenda will allow ‘**Information Sharing**’ to become commonplace practice amongst all agencies.

ContactPoint will

maintain a record of every child in England and is due to be rolled out across Essex in Spring 2009.

The new directory will hold basic information on each child and will be the quick way for trained practitioners in the voluntary sector to find out who is working with the same child.

The name of the child, their age, address and parent/carer contact will be shown along with their school, GP and any associated practitioner name details but **it will not hold case information** or details of **sensitive services**.

Access to the information held about children will be restricted to only those who need it as part of their work and is subject to **stringent security controls**.

Any child or young person could require the support of additional services at any time in their childhood. The advantage of

ContactPoint is being able to facilitate discussion as soon as a first sign of need is noticed; and it will be a vital part of delivering early intervention for children who need additional services and effective safeguarding for children at risk of harm. Further information with regards to ContactPoint is available at the **Every Child Matters** website and for further information about

ContactPoint please email the Essex team at ContactPoint@essex.gov.uk

The Essex Experience

The Essex Experience is a community development project run by **Essex Scouts** and volunteers are being recruited for the event in September. Volunteers attend a five day training course and then work as part of a team to lead and mentor young people during a camping and activity weekend. It is a great opportunity to develop youth leadership skills, make new friends, enjoy a challenge and it can be used as the residential project for the Gold D of E award. It is free to participate and all food and accommodation is provided. The volunteering opportunity is also offered to local authorities, businesses and other community organisations across Essex and attracts a wide variety of volunteers. The dates for the event are from **Monday 15th to Sunday 21st September inclusive and volunteers must be able to commit this whole period**. The event is residential and takes place at Skreens Park near Chelmsford in Essex. **Volunteers need to be aged 18 or over**.

The Essex Experience has won a number of awards for its training course—most recently at the High Sheriff's Awards in March. For those interested please contact: Claire Fielder, Community Development Officer for Essex County Scout Council, on 01702 216768 or 07711 375

759 to be invited to one of the following briefings:-

- Tuesday 24th June, 7 pm, Colchester
- Sunday 13th July, 2 pm, Chelmsford
- Wednesday 16th July, 7 pm, Basildon

FUNDING



New funding information for Essex

Knowing which grant scheme best matches your needs and what money is available can be complicated, so Essex County Council has launched a new service to make life easier. A new funding search tool called **Grantnet** can now be found on its website – www.essexcc.gov.uk – which will allow voluntary and community groups and town and parish councils to search for funding opportunities for projects directly. The direct website link is www.essexcc.gov.uk/Grantnet

The Jack Petchey Foundation

Essex is one of the main areas of operation for this Foundation which focuses on projects and programmes that benefit 11- 25 year olds. Grants are normally valued between £100 and £50,000 plus and the foundation has a rolling programme with no deadlines. Organisations and groups that assist and encourage young people to achieve their full potential and take personal responsibility for their lives are eligible to apply, including youth organisations such as Scouts, Guides and Army Sea Cadets. For more information telephone 0208 252 8000 or see the Foundation's website at www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk

Young people's fund 2

The Big Lottery Fund has launched the second round of the Young People's Fund programme. Up to £38 million is available over the next two years to support projects across England where young people lead from start to finish. The programme is open to voluntary and community sector organisations, offering grants between £10,000 and £500,000 to support activities and services lasting between 1 and 5 years. www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/ypf2local

Community Initiatives Fund – capital funds available for grassroots projects. Visit www.communityinitiativefund.co.uk for more information. All Essex districts have been allocated some CIF money

The Community Initiatives Fund (Youth) builds on Essex County Council's trailblazing Community Initiatives Fund which, in its first three rounds, granted £5million to 600 vital community projects across Essex worth more than £38million. That was so successful further funding has been made available this year. The fund is split between the county's 12 districts and boroughs, with £155,000 available for each one for youth projects in the financial year 2008/09, with any grant needing to be spent by 2010. The money will be given to capital schemes only with a minimum grant of £15,000 set to help really worthwhile projects get off the ground. Young people will be involved in the decision-making process while applicants must provide strong evidence of consultation and involvement of young people in their application process. There will be two funding rounds for this new grant - the first deadline for applications will be September 12 2008, with decisions being made from mid-October to the end

November. The second deadline for applications will be January 16 2009, with decisions being made in March 2009. Application forms and guidance notes are available on the website www.communityinitiativefund.co.uk For further information, please contact co-ordinator Beverly Davies on 07929 543523 or email info@communityinitiativefund.co.uk

Impetus Trust

<http://www.impetus.org.uk/index.html> funding for organisations at a critical point in their growth and development.

Changing Lives is a grant awarding project from Crisis, the national homeless charity. It provides financial awards of up to £2,500 to people who have been homeless to help them move towards a work-based vocational goal. The award could be used to pay for a course, for materials to use at work or for start up equipment to set up a business. The next round of applications is open 11 July. <http://www.crisis.org.uk/page.builder/changinglivesawards.html>

Help Yourself Awards

The Help Yourself Awards is a small grant funding scheme for projects that:

are strongly young person led and that improve the life chances of children and young people in vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and those living in communities experiencing severe poverty.

In a nutshell, we want to fund small, innovative projects, led by young people - or projects that work with children and young people and their ideas. So, if you have a great idea and you want to give it a go at making it a reality... read on.... The next deadline for completed applications is FRIDAY 11 JULY 2008 - with £1,000 funded projects expected to take place between SEPTEMBER and the end of DECEMBER 2008. Our website has full details of the Help Yourself Awards - where you can find a set of guidance notes, an online application process, or the option to download a hard-copy of the application form. We hope you will be interested in this source of funding and help by circulating this information to your other networks and contacts, or by including details in newsletters or bulletins. All enquiries about the Help Yourself Awards can be e-mailed to helpyourselves@savethechildren.org.uk

Changing Spaces - Access to Nature

Access to Nature aims to fund projects improving opportunities to access, enjoy and engage with the natural environment, particularly projects encouraging the involvement of young people, older people, black and minority ethnic groups and people with disabilities. Grant funding is available to voluntary and community organisations and statutory bodies across England. Access to Nature is an open grants programme run by Natural England with £ 25,000,000 funding from the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme.

FRESH

Everyone is welcome to chill with your friends. Go down to the Chelmsford YMCA, Victoria Road (parents welcome to stay) for more information contact Craig (Youth Projects Manager) on 01245 355677 or check out the website <http://Chelmsford.YMCA.org.uk>

INFORMATION

ISA

Government has published its formal response to the recent consultation on the Independent Safeguarding Authority scheme for vetting and barring those who work with children or vulnerable adults. The response covers various issues including under 16s in the workplace and

teaching 16 and 17 year olds in mixed age settings in higher education, sport and leisure. The full report is not yet online but a press release has been issued by the Criminal Records Bureau.

<http://www.crb.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=5059>

CRB checks for volunteers

The Cabinet Office has published new guidance to help organisations that use volunteers to be clear about when they do and don't need to carry out Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks on volunteers.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/080604_crb.aspx

Knife crime

The government is investing £3m in a three year campaign targeting knife crime. Radio, web and mobile ads have been developed by a group of 18 young people and consider the consequences of violence. Ads can be viewed online and more information is available on the Home Office website. The campaign will run simultaneously alongside another series of ads encouraging mothers to talk about knives with their children. www.itdoesnthavetohappen.co.uk <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/knife-crime-ads>

Children in care

Government has issued guidance to help Local Authorities (LAs) organise personal tutors, homework support and educational trips to the theatre for children in care, backed with £56 million of funding.

Children in care at risk of falling behind at school will get an extra £500 a year to pay for the sort of activities that parents provide for their children to help with their learning. Guidance has also been issued to LAs on how to provide £100 top up payments for children in care's Child Trust Fund (CTF) for every year they spend in care.

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0101

Find your talent

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has announced ten areas that are to pilot its £25 million Find Your Talent programme. The scheme aims to give young people the chance to encounter a range of high-quality cultural experiences for five hours a week both in and outside of school.

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0102

CWDC's new three year plan

The CWDC Business Plan 2008-2011 reveals that its priority work include; giving greater support for social workers and the social care workforce, leadership on youth work reform and strong

support for workforce reform regionally and locally. New programmes of work in social work, playwork and the youth workforce will aim to ensure there is additional training and support for these workforces. The organisation will continue to focus on current priorities, which include developing the Integrated Qualifications Framework, raising the skills of the early years workforce, delivering the Sector Skills Agreement and for continued funding of occupational groups to undertake new work that supports the delivery of the Children's Plan. To read the full report, [click here](#).

Bill could lift restrictions on volunteers' expenses

By Rosie Walker, Third Sector Online, 11 March 2008

Voluntary workers may soon be entitled to claim travel and childcare expenses without affecting their employment status.

The House of Lords will later this week debate an amendment to the Employment Bill which, if passed, will remove the current restriction on voluntary workers' expenses. At present, organisations can reimburse costs incurred while working, but not additional costs such as travel to work.

A voluntary worker receiving benefits beyond the needs of the organisation may be classed as a worker. This would make them eligible for the national minimum

wage, and could potentially lead to claims for backdated payment.

Minister for Employment Relations, Pat McFadden, said the amendment had been tabled to remove a barrier to taking part in voluntary work. Until now, said McFadden, organisations have been afraid to refund additional expenses for voluntary workers in case doing so would change the nature of the employment relationship. The proposed amendment follows a consultation conducted by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform into the National Minimum Wage Act 1998.

Phil Hope, Minister for the Third Sector, said: "We want to be sure that voluntary workers are not out of pocket as a result of volunteering, while also minimising the chances of low paying jobs emerging. Voluntary workers do not get paid, but they still incur expenses as a result of their work, and this new legislation will allow those expenses to be paid without any problems."

Contracting for advice centers 'could close CAB's'

Local authorities and the Legal Services Commission have failed to consider the long-term impact on the voluntary sector of contracting out community legal advice centres, according to the chief executive of Citizens Advice.

Dive in to Hector's World

UK's dedicated centre for tackling the sexual abuse of children launches new online safety programme for 5-7 year olds. Children as young as five years old are the focus of a new online safety programme. The UK's Centre for tackling sexual abuse of children is now reaching out to parents of much younger children with vital 'safety first' advice. Hector's World comprises five state of the art animated episodes. It takes children on a journey with Hector and his friends as they explore issues such as personal information, trustworthiness, making positive choices online and how to be open with a trusted adult when they use the internet. The animation has been adapted for a young UK audience following successful running of the programme in New Zealand and is backed up by a series of free resources available to parents and teachers via the dedicated CEOP education website – thinkuknow.co.uk. All materials have been developed in consultation with Becta and with teachers.

Calling all community groups!

Are you looking for a place to meet? Colchester YMCA is keen to see greatly increased use of its community hall. "The hall is a fantastic facility available to all the community and located within easy reach of Colchester town centre" said Andrew Eadie the YMCA's Youth & Community Manager. Among the facilities available at the hall are wireless internet, kitchen, wheelchair accessible toilet, OHP, PowerPoint projector and PA system, with seating for 30+ for groups looking for a more social gathering there is also pool and table tennis. If you would like to make use of the YMCA's community hall phone Andrew on 01206 508012, email activities@colchesterymca.co.uk or visit their website at www.colchesterymca.co.uk



A programme of summer holiday camps for young people is kicking off in July to help protect the nation's religious heritage. The Cathedral Camps are run by UK volunteering charity CVS and will see

young people cleaning spires, clearing graveyards, painting railings, polishing altars, oiling doors and surveying tombstones. Campers can explore behind the scenes at many of the nations favourite cathedrals and some will get the chance to sleep on the pews and in the aisles of selected churches. The camps are open to young people aged 16 to 25. www.cathedralcamps.org.uk

PILOT SCHEMES

Foster care pilots

Children's Minister, Kevin Brennan MP, has announced that young foster children with emotional or psychological difficulties are to get extra support to stop them getting into trouble at school and help them settle in care placements. Government will invest £3.8 million in a pilot project that will see eight local authorities will get £400,000 each to set up the Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care – Children pilots that will help 7-11 year old foster children displaying early antisocial challenging behaviour, who have already had a number of care placements or interventions. http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0100

RESOURCES

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]

Charities Evaluation Services leads new National Performance Programme

Charities Evaluation Services (CES) have started a major 3-year programme to expand the support on

performance management available to third sector organisations across England. This programme is funded by Capacitybuilders and takes over where the Performance Hub left off. Details and course dates for this programme are available via the [CES website](#).

CWDC's new integrated working CD-Rom

The CWDC has released a new CD Rom to support Integrated Working, which contains a range of existing resources on integrated working aimed at helping the children's workforce to work together better. The CD Rom includes various integrating working tools, such as the Common Assessment Framework and guidance on different aspects of integrated work as well as quick guides in the form of simple fact sheets. The CD Rom can be obtained by calling the integrated team on 0113 244 6311 or emailing: integratedworking@cwdcouncil.org.uk.

TRAINING

Essex Safeguarding Children's Board has come up with dates for SET Child Protection Procedures. This is for multi agency staff who are new to Essex and who need to be familiar with the SET Child Protection Procedures. If you are interested then please complete the

booking form attached to this newsletter.

VOLUNTEERING

Opportunities for volunteering -

Volunteering England will shortly be advertising the Opportunities for Volunteering grant scheme for 2009-10. OFV is a Department of Health initiative which provides grants to local health and social care organisations in England. The grants aim to enable organisations to involve volunteers in the delivery of their services.

<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/Funding/ofvfunding>

Hearts & Minds

Here is the link for it from Audit Commission.

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/reports/NATIONAL-REPORT.asp?CategoryID=&ProdID=418C38AF-0D97-49dd-95D6-EE7E7BA43773>
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Acknowledgement:
Information in this issue from various sources including NCVYS, NYA, Cover, CVYS & CVS Newsletters