

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Buddies Programme off to Flying Start
- New Lifestyle Centre
- National Volunteers' Week
- Health and Social Care Consortium
- Olympic Torch Route in Sandwell
- Spotlight on..Old Hill for Our Heroes
- Computers for Charities
- Charity Law Review
- Funding Digest
- Response to Gang and Serious Youth Violence Event

*Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations is a membership organisation representing the experiences and aspirations of Sandwell's Voluntary & Community Sector.*

*It offers a wide variety of capacity building and developmental services to charitable and community organisations.*

## Cabinet Support for New Buddies Initiative

**Sandwell's new Buddies Programme has received further backing following a recent meeting between SCVO and the Cabinet Minister for Civil Society.**

The new programme, as reported in the last issue of 'SCVO.INFO', will enable a substantial increase in the opportunities for local people with professional skills to volunteer as Buddies, whilst adding valuable extra support and capacity to local community organisations.

Civil Society Minister Nick Hurd (pictured above with SCVO's Chief Executive Mark Davis) was keen hear about Sandwell's new initiative and was clearly impressed with the ambition and the success to date of our Buddies pilots. He was clear about the huge benefits of buddying and in particular the personal and professional development opportunity this provides for volunteer Buddies.

Mark Davis "It's great to have another opportunity to put Sandwell on the map for very positive reasons. We're confident that this Buddies initiative will make a real difference to local communities in Sandwell and through our partnerships in



neighbouring boroughs too."

There are four Buddies streams, with recruitment now underway for volunteers who can bring finance, marketing, business and fundraising skills and apply them in local community settings. For further information about this programme please contact the new Buddies Co-ordinator, Tippa Naphtali, on 0121 525 1127 or via email at buddies@scvo.info.

To read more about the new staff joining SCVO to work on the Buddies Programme see SCVO news.

Please also see the new Buddies website at [www.buddiesuk.org](http://www.buddiesuk.org).

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## SCVO Update

# Buddies Programme off to Flying Start

**Following the successful bid into The Social Action Fund the new Buddies Programme has hit the ground running through the successful recruitment of both Buddies and VCS organisations on to the scheme.**

This SCVO instigated project, which aims to build the capacity of VCS organisations in Sandwell and across the wider Black Country, has attracted significant interest across the public, private and voluntary sector and the first group of Buddies and organisations requiring their support are now in place.

Taking the initial lead on the scheme's roll out Geoff Henderson, the Interim Co-ordinator, said, "The twin priorities of the first phase of the programme have now been achieved. After an extensive marketing campaign we have now recruited some excellent individuals with the right blend of enthusiasm and business skills to make a real difference to the organisations they will be supporting. Direct contact with VCS organisations has stimulated real demand for Buddies and the matchmaking process is now underway."

The Programme builds momentum with the appointment of the new Buddies Co-ordinator, Tippa Naphtali, who said: "I am

extremely pleased that I have been selected to be part of SCVO's Buddies Programme and hope to bring my knowledge of delivery from a similar programme that I recently developed and managed. I have over 30 years' experience of developing organisations and look forward to working with the team at SCVO, its partners and the many organisations that it supports."

Tippa will be joined by the new Project Support Worker Carolyn Pratt who brings a wealth of experience working in regeneration and in particular within deprived communities. Carolyn said: "I have learnt so much from my past roles and am excited about joining SCVO and my new role. I know how valuable volunteers can be and what a difference their experience can make to them and to the organisations they support."

The programme continues its recruitment campaign and Buddies are now being recruited from individuals drawn from university business schools and from management positions in local authorities, health authorities, police & fire services and the business sector. VCS organisations are being recruited from the marketing campaign and through co-ordinated recruitment activities with key partners including Volunteer Centre Sandwell and WVSC in Wolverhampton.



## SCVO Update

# Healthy Homes Healthy Communities Meeting

**Would you like to know how you can get involved in some of the exciting social housing and community development projects which are happening in the Borough?**

If so, you may be interested to attend an event on 11 May 2012, which SCVO is jointly organising with Cllr Simon Hackett, SMBC's Cabinet Member for Housing, and Kerry Bolister, SMBC Area Director for Homes and Communities. This grew out of a discussion at the Sandwell Voluntary and Community Sector Leaders' Forum, where representatives expressed a desire to build better links with the Council's "Place" Theme, of which the Homes and Communities Directorate is a part. It will take



place in the Council Chamber at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury.

The focus of the event will be on the opportunities for the

voluntary sector to feed into the priorities which the Council has set for housing and community development in the Borough over the coming years. There will be discussion sessions which will allow organisations to put across their skills and how they could be involved in delivering on these priorities. We hope it will also lead in future to a more regular VCS forum concentrating on housing, homelessness and community development matters.

Details are still being finalised, but if you would like to know more about the event or express an interest in attending, please contact Leona Bird email: leona@scvo.info or tel: 0121 525 1127.

# Provider Development Programme

**Over recent months, SCVO has been trying to bring voluntary organisations and commissioners closer together, to help to avoid some of the potential pitfalls in the process and to help commissioners to understand the unique skills, values and pressures of voluntary organisations.**

To build on this, SCVO is pleased to announce a programme of help for organisations which need extra support in adjusting to the new commissioning and contracting approaches being used by Sandwell MBC and other partners. During the course of 2012-13, in conjunction with SMBC's commissioning directorate, we will be running:

- Two major "Meet the Commissioners" events for organisations across Sandwell to become better acquainted with the people doing the commissioning, the processes they use and how to maximise chances of success; and
- Four targeted "Commissioning in Focus" events addressing specific elements of commissioning and contracting – perhaps focussing on a specific sub-sector of the VCS, or on a particular aspect of the process.

This will run alongside SCVO's regular engagement forums with commissioners, and our advocacy work on behalf of organisations involved in commissioning

exercises.

We are pleased to announce that the first Commissioning in Focus event around health and social care service planning and contracting in Sandwell. The event will be held on 17th May 2012 from 1.30pm – 4.30pm at St John Ambulance Oldbury & Langley, Birchfield Lane, B69 1AD. Please keep the date free and look out for further details in future e-bulletins and on the SCVO website.

For more information about the provider development programme please contact Nick Drew, nick@scvo.info or telephone: 0121 525 1127



GET INVOLVED

SCVO is working to help increase engagement between the Voluntary and Community Sector and public sector bodies. The Sector can also benefit from having the opportunity to meet more often with each other.

SCVO aims to achieve this in various ways, including:-

- Informal networking events
- Facilitating thematic VCS networks and groups
- Consultation events on important local strategies
- Developing ways for the VCS to be represented on key local partnerships
- Supporting VCS groups to understand, influence and lobby decision makers
- Promoting understanding and use of the Sandwell Compact in relations between the VCS and public sector
- Receiving issues from the VCS and raising them with the appropriate public body

For further details and to get involved call the Strategic Engagement Team on 0121 525 1127.

# New Lifestyle Centre for the Borough

**Work is moving ahead on a brand new £18m leisure, health and social care centre in Sandwell. Portway Lifestyle Centre in Oldbury will open its doors to customers in 2013. Contractor Thomas Vale is set to start work later this spring on the building's foundations.**

The lifestyle centre, on the site of the former Oldbury Leisure Centre, will boast a four-court sports hall, climbing wall, dance studio, fitness suite, cafe and all-weather football pitch.

There will also be a GP surgery, Tivdale Family Practice and a hydrotherapy pool for rehabilitation and other therapeutic purposes.

Sandwell Council is working on the project alongside Sandwell Primary Care Trust, Sandwell Local Improvement Trust (LIFTCo) and Sandwell Leisure Trust, which will run the centre. Sandwell Council's deputy leader

and cabinet member for strategic resources Councillor Steve Eling said: "The lifestyle centre will be a major asset to the local community, as well as further afield, giving equal access to people with disabilities. It is one of the few centres of its type in the country to take this approach and will make Sandwell a beacon for redevelopment. Demolition has been successfully completed and we are now moving towards construction work."

A community group called the Portway Lifestyle Centre Reference Group has been set up to help develop services at the centre and includes people who use day services, the voluntary sector, GP patients, and carers' representatives. It has looked at issues including timetabling, activities and accessibility.

A review of the project hailed its community engagement as among the best in the country.



# Representing Sandwell's Voluntary Sector

**Over recent months, SCVO has been successful in securing meetings with Cllr Ann Jaron, SMBC's Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services, and with James Morris, Conservative MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, to which a range of organisations were invited.**

The meeting with Cllr Jaron was organised with a very specific focus on the problems which many organisations in the adult social care field are having as a result of moving from "block" contracts to spot-purchased care under the personal budget agenda. Many organisations felt they had been starved of referrals since personal budgets were introduced, and some were under imminent threat of closure if something was not done urgently. The point was also made that preserving a local market for service commissioning makes sense in terms of the local

economy and in terms of value for money.

As a result of the meeting, Cllr Jaron and Commissioning Director Martin Samuels agreed to look urgently at the care review system to ensure that organisations could keep their existing clients, and to put in place development opportunities to help organisations to adapt to the new system. We will keep monitoring the Council's progress in implementing these solutions.

The meeting with James Morris MP took place under the auspices of the Sandwell VCS Leaders' Forum, a regular meeting for key managers and chief officers within the voluntary sector to keep informed of latest strategic developments and to put questions to senior public sector representatives. The meeting with James Morris was of particular interest since he had sat on the House of Commons Bill

Committee during the development of the Localism Act.

Attendees asked questions about how localism would be enacted in Sandwell, and SMBC's progress in implementing the requirements of localism, and expressed concerns about commissioning and contracting processes and the Council's future approach to asset transfer. James committed to raising these matters in his regular meeting with the other Sandwell MPs and senior SMBC officers. SCVO is committed to keeping lines of communication open with senior public sector managers, politicians and others who have an influence on the voluntary sector in Sandwell.

If there are particular individuals with whom you feel SCVO should be making better connections, please let us know. Contact Nick Drew, [nick@scvo.info](mailto:nick@scvo.info) or 0121 525 1127

# Research Reveals Costs of Procurement

**Figures recently released have pointed to the high cost of public sector procurement processes as the European Commission considers changes to its procurement rules.**

The research estimates the average cost of each procurement process – the competitive bidding for contracts to deliver services – at nearly £24,000, with each bidder spending over £3,000 per tender and public bodies spending on average over £4,500 to administer the process. As the costs of much of the bureaucracy that goes with these processes are

fixed – irrespective of the value of the contracts – that means that for smaller value contracts near the £105,000 lower limit the total cost of the procurement process can sometimes be over a quarter of the contract value.

Many within the Voluntary and Community Sector have been arguing for a long time that funding processes need to be more proportionate to the sums involved. Sandwell's own VCS Leaders' Forum have been lobbying senior figures within the local public sector for fairer commissioning processes which ensure that local residents receive the greatest

possible benefit in terms of the services they access.

On a national level, key agencies such as NAVCA are joining the calls of support for the EC's proposal that there should be a separate category for certain social, health and education services. This would recognise that many of these services are best delivered by local providers – therefore removing the requirement to advertise them across the EU. As many voluntary organisations deliver precisely these kind of services, the positive implications of this proposed change are clear.



## GET SUPPORT

SCVO offers a range of services to support the development and sustainability of Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in Sandwell, however big or small.

We achieve this through one-to-one support, workshops and training events, and signposting and referrals to specialist services.

- Funding advice and information
- Governance support including start-up, constitutions, forming and running a committee and charity registration
- Planning activities, services and projects
- Recruiting and managing staff and volunteers
- Implementing quality systems and improving performance
- Monitoring, evaluating and reporting to stakeholders
- Working collaboratively and in partnership
- Information on local, regional and national issues affecting the Voluntary & Community Sector

For further details and to request support call the Capacity Building Team on 0121 525 1127.

## Social Enterprise

# 21% of Young People Unemployed in the West Midlands

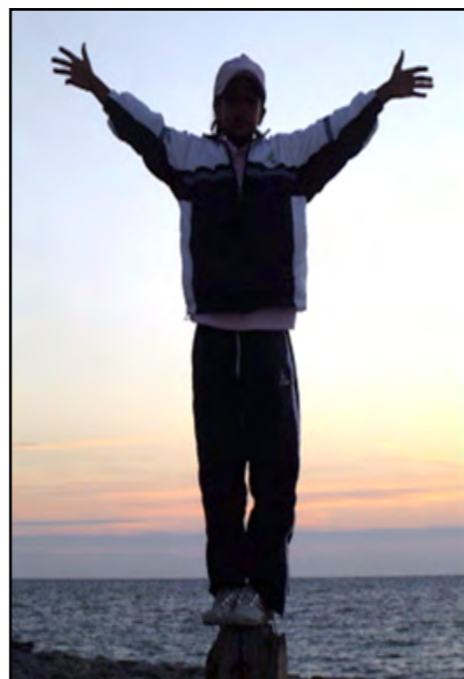
**Striding Out Enterprise project, which is hosted by St. Alban's Community Centre runs on Friday mornings and is offering support to individuals who want support with preparing for work or thinking about going into business.**

Striding Out CIC started in 2005 after identifying the gap in support for young people looking to go into business. All staff are professionally qualified coaches and social entrepreneurs. We live and breath our mission and values to support young people into employment and self employment through our coaching and training services.

The objective of the project are :

- to provide cv support workshop on Friday's in March.
- to provide workshops in the longer term and accredited courses
- to increase levels of confidence and career / business coaching

Alison Richards who is delivering the provision says " With a quarter of our youth unemployed I cannot sit back and watch what we are doing to young people. My intention is to build their aspiration and confidence and to develop their skills so they can harness their ideas and create solutions. I believe in young people and I am working with St. Albans because we share



the commitment to making Sandwell a better place."

Yaw Owusu, founder of One Hundred Global said "Striding Out has been a goldmine. My coach was so thorough when she helped me with my business plan and I felt she genuinely cared - which made me feel more confident and positive. Without her help - I wonder whether I would have got funding from the bank."

The project is seeking financial support to continue and to progress clients on to making their business a reality.

If you are interested in supporting financially or professionally as a mentor or in terms of contributing expertise then please contact Alison on 07960026582 or email: [alison@stridingout.co.uk](mailto:alison@stridingout.co.uk)

## Volunteering

# Big Thank You for Sandwell Volunteers

**Hundreds of Sandwell volunteers are set to receive a special thank you courtesy of Volunteer Centre Sandwell.**

Statutory, Charities and Community groups from Sandwell are invited to register for free award certificates to help them thank their volunteers.

This initiative has come from the Black Country Volunteer Centre Network which was created in 2009. Forums have been set up in each area so that people

who manage volunteers can share ideas, access training and support each other.

Jean Taylor, Chief Executive Officer said, "Our group asked if we could help them recognize their volunteers and we couldn't think of a nicer way to show our appreciation. From a small informal setting to a huge

celebration, a simple thank you can make a world of difference and really shows just how much we value the difference that volunteers make."

To reserve certificates or find out more about volunteering email: [vcsadmin@btconnect.com](mailto:vcsadmin@btconnect.com) or call 0121 544 8326.



## Celebrate National Volunteers' Week

**A call for Voluntary and Community groups to come forward and celebrate National Volunteers' Week 1 - 7 June 2012.**

Volunteer Centre Sandwell are inviting local people to enjoy a day with displays, cake stalls and a hamper raffle. Come along to West Bromwich Central Library on Friday 1 June 2012. The day will begin at 10am and conclude at 3pm.

There will be plenty on offer for local people to find out about current volunteering opportunities. Also, voluntary groups will be present to convey the message of their specialised service and the benefits of volunteering. We are encouraging new groups that are looking for volunteers to come along and join us!

Volunteer Centre Sandwell has over 300 organisations registered on their database that are currently recruiting volunteers to support their service delivery.

Jean Taylor, Chief Executive Officer said, "This Fun Day will be a great chance to show just what we have to offer and hopefully bring even more people through our doors."

On Wednesday and Thursday 6 and 7 June, Volunteer Centre

Sandwell together with local community groups will be outside New Look on West Bromwich High Street, promoting and raising the profile of volunteering. There will also be the opportunity for local people to register their particular interest.

For further information contact: [richard@volunteercentresandwell.co.uk](mailto:richard@volunteercentresandwell.co.uk) or telephone 0121 544 8326.



## ROOM HIRE

SCVO offers high quality Board and training facilities.

Rooms for hire include a Board room that seats up to thirty people, a meeting room that seats up to six and a smaller one to one meeting room.

Conference and training equipment is available to hirers along with a range of catering options.

Rates for room hire are competitive, with reductions for local not for profit groups. For more information call SCVO on 0121 525 1127.

## Collaborative Working

# Health and Social Care Consortium

**SCVO urge organisations to come forward and express their interest in the Consortium and the opportunities it presents for the health and social care sector in Sandwell.**

Sandwell Health and Social Care Consortium (current working title) needs to understand its potential partners in order to build its unique market offer. To assist the Consortium, SCVO will be sending out an Expression of Interest Form to all interested parties to complete, which will help the Consortium Working Group to understand what each potential member of the Consortium might bring to the table.

All health and social care organisations who attended SCVO workshops and meetings about exploring collaborative working in health and social care will receive an automatic invitation to complete an Expression of Interest. The benefits of completing the expression are that your organisation will be in a better position to be proactively approached to work collaboratively to apply for future health and social care related grants and contracts. Additionally, the Consortium will be able to promote in their prospectus what types of services they hope to deliver as a collective, to commissioning and procurement officers.

The Working Group recently reached a decision to develop a

Company Limited by Guarantee and Registered Charity to minimise risk and liabilities that might occur from handling future health and social care grants and contracts. Over the coming months the Working Group will be accessing further SCVO support to adopt an appropriate governing document.

All Expression of Interest forms will need to be completed by 4pm on 15 June 2012. If you are delivering health and social care services or would like to move into this area of delivery as part of a collaborative project, please contact Martin Drayton, Collaborative Projects Officer, tel: 0121 525 1127 or email: martind@scvo.info

The Consortium Working Group consists of the following organisations: Action for Blind People; Beacon Centre for the Blind; CARES; Healthy Resolutions OHS; Ideal 4 All; Murray Hall Community Trust; Options for Life; Partnership for Peace Foundation; Relate Birmingham; Sandwell Asian Families Support Service; Sandwell Community Hubs Co-operative; Sandwell Crossroads; Sandwell Mind; West Bromwich & District YMCA and West Bromwich African Caribbean Resource Centre.

## Health and Social Care

# Private Fostering

**Understand more about what it is, in what circumstances a child would be privately fostered and the importance of letting Sandwell Council know about these arrangements and what to do if you know about such circumstances.**

**What is a private fostering arrangement?**

Private fostering is when a child between the ages of 0 – 16 yrs old (18 yrs old if they are disabled) is cared for by someone who is not the birth parent or close relative, for a period of 28 days or more.

**Definitions**

Close relatives are defined as grandparents, brother, sister, aunt or uncle or a step parent. A non-relative will include a friend, neighbour, or great aunt or uncle, great grandparents or cousins.

**Why would a child be privately fostered?**

These arrangements are normally put in place for one of the following reasons:

- Their parents have gone overseas to visit family members
- Their parents have gone away to work
- Their parents have a long term illness or mental health
- The young person have been sent to the UK from overseas to stay with extended family, or maybe for educational reasons.

**Why do we need to know about these arrangements?**

The local authority is legally required to ensure that all children who are privately fostered are being cared for by a suitable carer in an appropriate home environment. This is important to

ensure the child is safe and that all their developmental needs are being met.

**What to do if you know a child is being privately fostered**

If you are aware of a child who is being privately fostered in Sandwell, please do not ignore it, it is possible that everything is fine. But we need to know that these arrangements have been put in place. Notifications to the local authority can be made anonymously.

- Regular visits to the private foster carer and the child in their home
- Speak to the birth parents
- Provide support and advice

Contact Sandwell Council directly and in confidence on 0845 351 0131.

# Support for Young Carers and their Families

**Sandwell Advocacy's 'Young Carers Advocacy Project' supports children and young people (5-18 years of age) who provide regular or on-going care and emotional support.**

This could involve a family member or individual who may be affected by a physical impairment/learning difficulty, mental health condition, drug and alcohol addiction and any other long term illness or condition.

The project offers support that works within a person centred, but family orientated approach, whilst facilitating access to our integrated

package of support that includes crisis intervention and long term advocacy provision.

A Young Carers Advocate will provide one-to-one support and enable young carers to engage with the education and welfare system, social networks, short breaks and health and social care services. They take referrals directly from the individual themselves, an agency or a third party taken via: the telephone, Email and face to face.

If you would like more information, would like talk about what can be offered to you and/or your

team or wish to discuss making a referral contact information is: Sandwell Advocacy, Young Carers Advocacy Project, tel: 0121 520 8070. Email: sandwelladvocacy@btconnect.com





## Olympic Torch Route in Sandwell

### Olympic Torch route and torchbearers in Sandwell announced.

Thousands of people will have the chance to welcome the Olympic Torch as it passes through Sandwell on Saturday 30 June. It will be carried first from Oldbury town centre, from just before Sainsbury's, up to West Bromwich ringway, past the new Sandwell College, then onto High Street and Birmingham Road up to the junction with Beeches Road. The next leg will be along Smethwick High Street, from its junction with Regent Street, and along Cape Hill, where the Torch will be handed over to Birmingham, where there is an evening celebration.

Three free public events are planned for the afternoon of 30 June that will give a focus to the celebrations:

**Victoria Park, Smethwick** - come along to an extravaganza of sport, music, dance and community celebration being organised jointly by Raaj FM, Sandwell Council and many local organisations.

**Oldbury Civic Square**, to coincide with activities to mark Armed Forces Day.  
The **new Sandwell College building**, West Bromwich is holding an open day.

The Torch is expected to be in Sandwell between 5.50pm and 6.55pm on 30 June.



Juanita Williams from Sandwell Irish Community Association will be one of a number of inspirational people carrying the Torch in Sandwell. She has raised tens of thousands of pounds for Macmillan Cancer Relief with her cycling challenges since her father Bob Mansell died in 2005. Juanita will be carrying the Torch in Smethwick on 30 June 2012.

More information on the route and torchbearers can be found at [www.sandwell.gov.uk/london2012](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/london2012)



[www.sandwell2012.co.uk](http://www.sandwell2012.co.uk)

## Police and Crime Commissioners

**On 15 November 2012, for the first time ever, the public across England and Wales will elect a police and crime commissioner who will be accountable for how crime is tackled in their police force areas.**

### The Role

Police and crime commissioners (PCCs) will aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within their force area.

To provide stronger and more transparent accountability of the police, PCCs will be elected by the public to hold chief constables

and the force to account; effectively making the police answerable to the communities they serve.

PCCs will ensure community needs are met as effectively as possible, and will improve local relationships through building confidence and restoring trust. They will also work in partnership across a range of agencies at local and national level to ensure there is a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime.

PCCs will not be expected to run the police. The role of the PCC is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account.

**What will this mean for Sandwell:** There will be a Police and Crime Commissioner elected for the West Midlands. It will be important that voluntary sector organisations who are providing services around crime and disorder are able to influence the future commissioning of services. SCVO currently have a seat and represent the sector on the Safer Sandwell Partnership Board where this issue will be discussed further

We will of course provide updates as further information is available.

## Reporting Anti-Social Behaviour in Sandwell

### New way to report anti-social behaviour in Sandwell.

Sandwell's anti-social behaviour helpline will close this week following:

- cuts in Government funding
- a sharp fall in calls
- the recent launch of a new 24-hour non-emergency police 101 number

However, there will be no let up in the fight against anti-social behaviour.

People are now advised to report problems in the following ways:

- Crime and general anti-social behaviour concerns - call police 101 non-emergency number (24 hours). Always call

999 in a genuine emergency.

- Fly tipping, litter, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling and general nuisance such as noise - people can call the council's environment helpline 0845 359 7501 (8am-8pm Monday to Friday, 8.30am-1.30pm Saturday) or email [contact@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:contact@sandwell.gov.uk)

People can also report problems at neighbourhood forum meetings, which are held four times a year in each of Sandwell's 24 wards, and to local councillors.

The anti-social behaviour helpline (0845 359 7500) - including its text messaging reporting facility -

will be closed on 31 March 2012.

The council's contact centre currently runs both the anti-social behaviour helpline and the environment helpline. So the move will also help avoid unnecessary duplication with the environment line, which already takes fly tipping and litter calls.

The council's anti-social behaviour team is unaffected by the changes and will continue to support victims and investigate cases referred to it.

Sandwell Police and the Safer Sandwell Partnership fully support the move.

## Third Sector Funding Strategy

**Work is underway to review the Council's Third Sector Funding Strategy. The review has been set up by Councillor Steve Eling in response to national and local changes to the voluntary sector funding environment, which are causing uncertainty and instability at a local level.**

The third sector funding strategy is the agreed framework upon which the Council will base its decisions about funding for voluntary and community organisations.

The review will look at a number of issues including:

- the difference between grants and contracts
- how local procurement rules impact on voluntary and

- community organisations
- the future role of the councils voluntary sector support budget

Initial discussions with the VCS Leaders' Forum have helped to inform the direction of the review.

Originally it was planned that this piece of work would be completed in March but the complexity of the issues has meant that the target date for completion is now June 2012.

For further information please contact Heather Chinner from the council's area working team [heather\\_chinner@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:heather_chinner@sandwell.gov.uk) 0121 569 3020

## Community First Panels

**If you live in Sandwell, there may be a community first panel in your area. Local people can put forward ideas for improving their community or neighbourhood and apply to the panel for some funding to help.**

Community First panels also have panel partners which are voluntary sector organisations who can support the panel in various ways. SCVO can offer support to voluntary sector organisations through their funding portal to look for match funding or through our database to look for partner organisations in your area. Both these are available through our website: [www.scvo.info](http://www.scvo.info). We also deliver training, so keep a look out for our new training programme. For further information about the support SCVO can offer, please email [support@scvo.info](mailto:support@scvo.info) or

phone 0121 525 1127.

To find out more details about local Community First Panels please go to the Funding & Programmes, Community First, Neighbourhood Matched Fund section on the Community Development Foundation website at [www.cdf.org.uk](http://www.cdf.org.uk)



Spotlight on ...



## Old Hill 4 Our Heroes



**This month Old Hill 4 Our Heroes are in the spotlight. 'SCVO.INFO' talks to Dave Quinton, Dave Saunders and Lisa Biddlestone from the group.**

### 1. Tell us what you do.

Throughout the year the group raises money to provide practical support to local heroes. Our annual family fun day brings the whole community together, with a fun fair, stalls, bands, street entertainers and a balloon race.

### 2. What is your proudest achievement?

Our slogan is "what have you done today to make you feel proud?" How do we choose one proud moment from some many? On the Fun Days work begins at 4:30 am. As the day progresses we experience every imaginable emotion. But by the end of the day were crying with pride, like big babies. Making nice things happen for other people is the most satisfying experience in life. When donating money people often ask what their contribution will be used for, as they want to see it make a difference. With the proceeds from one event we sent 32 families on holiday.

Another enabled us to purchase a set of long parallel bars to be used by rehabilitation therapists to help people to regain their strength, balance, movement and independence following an injury.

### 3. What is the most valuable lesson you have learnt about working with people in Sandwell?

The community spirit is there, if you really want to bring it out. People want to be part of a community. Five thousand people join that parade each year, which takes a lot of organising a serious commitment to the community.

### 4. What are the plans for the future?

It takes all year to plan each festival, as soon as we've delivered one, we start planning the next. The organisational structures we've put in place are second to none. Everyone knows their roles and responsibilities and it runs like clockwork.

### 5. What are the most important challenges for the voluntary sector in Sandwell in the coming years?

People like us need to know where to go when we need help.

Red tape is the biggest obstacle we face, organising road closures and licences for stalls and music, for example. It's a mine field. Getting the recognition that we deserve from businesses and the council for the contribution that the festival makes to the local economy and community cohesion is another challenge.

### 6. How can SCVO help strengthen the sector over the coming years?

With SCVO's help we have changed our name, developed and agreed a governing document and become a registered charity. Currently we are getting guidance on funding to help us to sustain and develop our valuable work. We need your continued support and guidance to ensure that we reach the different cultural groups that make up the community of Old Hill so that everybody feels included.



### TRAVEL SERVICE THAT CARES

Give to charity by booking your holiday with IQS Travel, a travel service that invests all profits back into charity.

IQS Travel is a social enterprise run by Ideal for All, a charity in Sandwell run by disabled people for disabled and disadvantaged people. It offers a wide range of holidays to suit everyone and all tastes. What really makes it stand out above other travel companies is that it specialises in accessible holidays for disabled people.

IQS Travel was set up in May 2011 and is aimed at everyone but the charity saw that there was a gap in the market for accessible holidays. Through personal experience staff at the charity are aware of the difficulties and barriers that disabled people face when booking a holiday, so the service was set up with two aims in mind. One to support people with specialist accessible holidays and secondly to generate income to support the services the charity provides for local disabled and vulnerable people.

For more information please call 0121 565 7926, visit our website - [www.iqstravel.com](http://www.iqstravel.com) or email [iqstravel@idealforall.com](mailto:iqstravel@idealforall.com)

## Affordable Internet-Ready Computers for VCOs

**REPC Ltd is a West Bromwich based social enterprise that specialise in recycling IT and related equipment for reuse by local charities, community groups and organisations.**

They are an environment Agency registered and Microsoft registered refurbishers, which means they can provide charities, eligible individuals and groups with discounted software as part of their high quality, but low cost internet-ready computer packages.

REPC can provide affordable:

- Internet ready desktop computers
- Laptops
- Printers
- Computer network, installation and support
- Office furniture and equipment (desks, pedestals, filing cabinets, display
- stands, projectors, screens



etc)

- Collection, secure data wiping and certification for removal of IT equipment &
- Computer engineering workshops and work-placements

All REPC computer packages include:

- Microsoft Windows 7 or Windows XP
- Office Software
- Flat Screen Monitors
- Keyboard and Mouse
- Internet Security
- Extended Warranty

Computer packages and services can be tailored to suit organisational needs, delivered and installed ready for use.

For more information, call RePC Ltd today on 0121 557 6439, email us [info@repcltd.co.uk](mailto:info@repcltd.co.uk) or visit our website [www.repcltd.co.uk](http://www.repcltd.co.uk)

### Quality Venue in Smethwick

**Smethwick Heritage Centre offers room hire and the opportunity to find out about the heritage right on your doorstep.**

The centre is an ideal venue for community groups, meetings, AGMs and training workshops. It is conveniently located at Victoria Park Lodge, just off the High Street in Smethwick.

The meeting room seats up to 40 in a variety of layouts including theatre style, cabaret and classroom. Meeting and training equipment is available to hirers along with a range of catering and refreshment options. With hundreds of artefacts at



the centre, you can also take a tour and discover the heritage for yourself.

Rates for room hire are very

competitive. For more information please contact Chris Sutton on 0121 555 7278 or email [smethwickhc@btconnect.com](mailto:smethwickhc@btconnect.com)

## CHAINS – A Resource for the Voluntary and Community Sector

**The Community Help And Information Network Sandwell (CHAINS) website was launched in May 2010 to provide local community groups and voluntary organisations with a free platform from which to promote themselves, latest news, activities and upcoming events.**

Any 'not for profit' club, group or organisation can take up this offer. You can add to CHAINS one-off events, regular weekly/monthly activities, public meetings or news about the group. Unlike using posters, flyers or newsletters information can be changed or amended very quickly – so things

stay relevant longer.

CHAINS is a resource specifically for Sandwell. You'll only find information about local groups, news or events – or specific things that benefit or inform people and groups within Sandwell.

The website also offers groups support, help, advice and practical tools – including grant finding software to help secure elusive funding. Whether you're a new group starting up or an established group you'll find ideas, tips and tools to make running a group that bit easier.

All the features and support on the website are free. Groups can choose to add information directly

onto the site themselves or send information to the CHAINS team to add it for them.

Find out more at [www.communitychains.co.uk](http://www.communitychains.co.uk) or contact the CHAINS team at [enquiry@communitychains.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@communitychains.co.uk).

CHAINS is a partnership project between Sandwell Community Information & Participation Services Ltd (SCIPS) and Wednesbury 2000 Ltd with grant funding from The Big Lottery Fund.





# Charity Legislation Review

**Charity law is the kind of subject which makes most sane people nod off within seconds, but please try to stay awake for the next 400 words or so and I'll try to explain why it's vitally important for us to have our say.**

Charity law, which had previously remained largely unchanged since Elizabethan times, was fully overhauled in form of the Charities Act 2006, as a result of a successful campaign for reform led by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). Charity law defines everything we do, and even though the 2006 Act provided a very necessary update, it can still be improved, and this gives us our best chance to ensure that the changes which come forward from the review make it easier to run our charities and clearer as to what constitutes charitable purposes and public benefit.

Whilst it represents a considerable improvement on the previous position, there are still some key questions about the new Act:

- The "Public Benefit" test for charities is still disputed;
- Some of the legal forms proposed by it (e.g. Charitable Incorporated Organisations) are still yet to be finalised;
- There are still issues around fundraising and public collections;
- The Charity Tribunal which it set up has been widely criticised; and
- The legislation remains complicated and difficult to understand and interpret.



- The Cabinet Office has already made clear that there will be no time to introduce a whole new Charities Act in this Parliament, but that there is the possibility to introduce changes to the current Act through secondary legislation "tweaking" its provisions, so we do have an opportunity for at least some real change.

Nick Hurd MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office, has appointed Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbots to undertake the five year review of the Charities Act, required by section 73 of the Act. The terms of reference for the review can be viewed on the Cabinet Office website: <http://bit.ly/charityreview>.

Organisations can undertake an online survey from the Cabinet Office webpage, or submit detailed comments to [charitiesactreview@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:charitiesactreview@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk)

For a more detailed discussion or to find out more about how you can get involved in the review, please contact Nick Drew, Strategic Engagement Manager: [nick@scvo.info](mailto:nick@scvo.info) / 0121 525 1127

# April Charities Update

## Charity Commission Reminds Trustees of their Responsibilities

The Charity Commission has recently published a report highlighting issues for charities. In particular it reminds trustees of the importance of having a clearly identifiable board of trustees appointed in accordance with the charity's governing document. It restates that every charity must have access to formal banking facilities and adequate financial and administrative controls in place in order to operate effectively and transparently. Where a charity owns land or buildings, trustees must know at all times what condition it is in, that it is being properly used to achieve the stated charitable objects and that adequate insurance is in place.

## Deregulation of Regulated Entertainment

The Live Music Act for England and Wales received royal assent on 8 March 2012. From next summer (date to be confirmed) charities will not require a licence for live performance of music or entertainment whether amplified or unamplified between 8am and midnight to audiences of less than 200 people, if the premises are:-

- licensed for the supply of alcohol, provided that at the time of the entertainment

alcohol is being supplied for consumption on the premises, and the licence does not include a condition saying this provision does not apply

- not licensed under the Licensing Act but are defined in law as workplaces. The performance of unamplified live music or entertainment of a similar description in any premises, regardless of audience size, between 8am and midnight, is permitted unless the premises are licensed for the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises and the licence says that this music provision does not apply.

## What does the Charities Act 2011 Mean for Charities?

It's important to refer to the Charities Act 2011 when producing trustee and financial reports, even if they relate to an earlier period. However we are promised tolerance for the time being if we accidentally refer to previous acts. However, if a charity is reviewing its governing documents it would be wise to check and update any references to old acts at the same time.

## Companies House Warns of Charities Scam

Someone claiming to be from

Companies House is ringing companies, asking for details of company directors. Companies House say that staff will never contact anyone by telephone asking who the company's officers are or asking for other details such as company authentication codes. If anyone contacts you claiming to be from Companies House, try to obtain a return telephone number, and contact Companies House immediately on 0303 1234 500.

## Changes to Charity Registration Process

From 1 March 2012, the Charity Commission made it compulsory that all accompanying documents (governing documents, trustee declaration, bank statement and other supporting documents) must now be attached when submitting an online application. It is therefore essential that you have prepared all these documents in advance of completing the online form. This is particularly relevant if there is an urgent deadline for consideration of the application. Visit the start up a charity section at [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk)

## SANDWELL VCS DIRECTORY

This internet-based directory lists details of a large number of voluntary organisations and community groups in Sandwell. It can be searched to identify groups that work with a particular client group, in a particular location, etc..

To add your group's details to the directory call SCVO on 0121 525 1127.

To view and search the database visit [www.sandwellvcs.info](http://www.sandwellvcs.info)

## FUNDING PORTAL

SCVO's funding portal allows instant, online access to hundreds of funders and contractors. Situated on the home page you can search the portal for funding tailored to your organisation's needs.

To view and search visit [www.scvo.info](http://www.scvo.info)

## E-MAIL UPDATES

Did you know that you can receive e-mails on SCVO services and events?

Currently more than 1000 people receive 'SCVO.INFO' through our weekly e-bulletin. This list is also used to circulate up to the minute information on news, events and services arranged by SCVO.

To sign up to this list contact SCVO on 0121 525 1127.

## Funding and Sustainability

# April Funding Digest

### Call for Proposals - Youth in Action Programme

The European Commission has announced that its Youth in Action programme is open for applications.

Through the Youth in Action programme, not for profit organisations working with young people (aged 13 - 30) can apply for funding to support for projects and actions that:

Inspire a sense of active European citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans.

The programme promotes mobility within and beyond the EU's borders, non-formal learning and intercultural dialogue, and encourages the inclusion of all young people, regardless of their educational, social and cultural background. The closing date for applications is noon on the 1 June 2012. [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/funding/2012/applications\\_permanent\\_call\\_2012\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/funding/2012/applications_permanent_call_2012_en.php)

### Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

These are some of the programmes currently available:

- Heritage Grants (above £50,000) – will support all kinds of heritage relating to the UK's national, regional and local heritage. Various application deadlines, see website.
- Your Heritage (£3,000-£50,000) – flexible small grants programme for all types of heritage projects. Apply anytime.
- Young Roots (£3,000-£25,000) - for projects led by young people involving 13-25 year-olds in finding out about their heritage, developing skills, building confidence and promoting community

involvement. Apply anytime. Projects must be focused around specific topics and timeframes demonstrating the skills, experiences and legacy that will be delivered detailing quantitative outcomes. For more information about HLF programmes, contact Laura Birkett (Development Officer): Tel: 0121 616 6883 Email: [birkettL@hlf.org.uk](mailto:birkettL@hlf.org.uk) Website: [www.hlf.org.uk/inyourarea/WestMidlands/Pages/WelcomeWestMidlands.aspx](http://www.hlf.org.uk/inyourarea/WestMidlands/Pages/WelcomeWestMidlands.aspx)

### The Britannia Building Society Foundation

Registered Charities and Schools, working within education and who are seeking funding specifically for numeracy and/or financial literacy projects can apply to the Britannia Building Society Foundation for grants of between £1,000 and £25,000. Over the last six years the Foundation has made grants totaling £3 million. Applications can be submitted at any time and there is a simple application form which is available on request by e-mailing [charitable.foundation@britannia.co.uk](mailto:charitable.foundation@britannia.co.uk) or telephoning on 01538 391806. In addition voluntary groups, charities and schools can apply for grants of up to £1,000 through the Britannia Community Fund. Applications to the Community Fund can be submitted at any time [http://www.britannia.co.uk/\\_site/corporate/social-responsibility/index.html](http://www.britannia.co.uk/_site/corporate/social-responsibility/index.html)

### William Adlington Cadbury Chairtable Trust

Grant for third sector organisations (TSOs) undertaking projects to benefit communities in Birmingham and the West Midlands. The William Adlington Cadbury Charitable Trust Grant

## Funding and Sustainability

is provided and administered by the William A. Cadbury Charitable Trust.

The scheme is intended to support charitable organisations undertaking a variety of projects which benefit communities, including:

- Social welfare, helping the disadvantaged e.g.:
- Women
- The elderly
- The homeless
- Minorities
- The young
- Penal affairs including work with offenders and ex-offenders

Eligible organisations must be operating in the Birmingham and West Midlands area.

For further information please contact the following: Contact details: Carolyn Bettis, The William A. Cadbury Charitable Trust, Rokesley, University of Birmingham, Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham. B29 6QF.

### Allen Lane Foundation

The Allen Lane Foundations awards grants to voluntary and not-for-profit organisations. Supported work should make a positive change to people's lives, as opposed to merely alleviating the symptoms of current problems and help to reduce discrimination, isolation and stigma. The funds can help start-up; project or core costs and one-off grants of between £500 and £15,000 are available. Match funding is not a requirement for awards to be made. Applications may be submitted at any time. Further information may be obtained by logging on to the Allen Lane Foundation's website at: <http://www.allenlane.org.uk/index.html>

### Comic Relief Announces New

### Funding Round

Comic Relief has announced that its UK Grant making programmes will re-open for applications on the 10th April 2012.

Through its UK grant making programme funding of between £25,000 and £40,000 will be available to third sector organisations operating in the areas of:

- Young people and mental health
- Sexually exploited and trafficked young people
- Domestic and sexual abuse, Mental health
- Young people and alcohol
- Refugee and asylum-seeking women.

The closing date for applications will be 12 noon on the 29 June 2012. In addition, Comic Relief will be seeking applications through its Sport Change and Older People's Programme 'Managing Money Better' programmes. These will also open for applications on the 10 April but will have a closing date of 12 noon on the 8 June 2012. <http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/apply-for-a-uk-grant>

### Funding for Summer Playschemes

The Hilden Charitable Fund has announced that its Summer Playscheme Grants Programme is now open for applications to help community groups run Summer Playschemes for the benefit of children from refugee and ethnic minority families. Funding of up to £1,000 is available for Summer Playschemes for children aged 5 - 18 years lasting for 2 - 6 weeks with strong volunteer support. The funding is available to voluntary agencies with an income of less than £120,000. Some priority will be given to projects which show

they are inclusive of children from refugee families, and show BME involvement. The closing date for applications is the 18th May 2012. <http://www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk/summer%20playcheme%20guidelines.htm>

### Funding To Support Poetry and Literature

The Clore Duffield Foundation has announced that the second funding round under its new £1 million programme to fund poetry and literature initiatives for children and young people across the UK is now open for applications. Through the programme, schools, FE colleges, community groups, libraries and other arts/cultural organisations can apply for grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 to support participatory learning projects and programmes focused on literature, poetry and creative writing for under 19s. The programme is due to run until 2015 with two funding rounds a year. Visit: [http://www.cloreduffield.org.uk/page\\_sub.php?id=331&parent=35](http://www.cloreduffield.org.uk/page_sub.php?id=331&parent=35)

**For support with identifying and applying to these and other funding opportunities, contact the Capacity Building Team at SCVO on 0121 525 1127.**

**To download the full Funding Digest visit [www.scvo.info](http://www.scvo.info) (under 'Get Support').**

**Visit our Funding Information Web Portal at [www.scvo.info](http://www.scvo.info)**



### SCVO MEMBERSHIP

Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations is a membership organisation open to all community groups and voluntary organisations active in Sandwell. It's Board of Directors is elected from it's membership and oversees the strategic direction of SCVO.

Its broad base of members therefore provides strength and credibility for SCVO in giving a voice to the experiences, views and aspirations of the Sector and in delivering capacity building services relevant in a diverse and ever-changing environment. SCVO are always looking to increase their membership and welcome applications from organisations and groups serving any part of Sandwell's community.

For further information about membership and how to apply please call 0121 525 1127.

### SCVO.INFO NEWSLETTER

If you would like to submit an article for inclusion in this newsletter or give feedback on any aspect of it, please call 0121 525 1127 or e-mail [leona@scvo.info](mailto:leona@scvo.info).

The deadline for articles for the June/July 2012 issue is Friday 18 May 2012.

## Ending Gangs and Serious Youth Violence

**An event is being held for the Voluntary and Community Sector in Sandwell to discuss Sandwell's Strategic Response to Gang and Serious Youth Violence.**

The Home Office definition of a 'Gang' in relation to this work is: a relative durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group, engaged in criminal activity and violence, lay claim over territory, have some form of identifying structural feature and are in conflict with other, similar gangs.

For 2012/13 Sandwell has been allocated ring-fenced funding from the Coalition Government to develop a strategic response to gangs and youth violence and the Voluntary and Community Sector are a vital and key partner in developing a response to this issue in Sandwell.

If your organisation is working with young people who are affected by this issue, then please attend the event on Monday 30 April at The Public in West Bromwich from 10am – 2.30pm. If you are interested in booking a place please e-mail [amie\\_stables@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:amie_stables@sandwell.gov.uk)

## SCVO's Development and Training Survey

**Our annual survey - coming your way soon! Please look out for it and have your say.**

Every year we ask our members and the wider Voluntary and Community Sector in Sandwell what training and support you would like us to deliver in the coming year. It is inevitable that this year our sector will continue to have increased demand placed upon our services, while funding is harder to find. Whilst there are opportunities available, we need to be innovative and work differently to ensure that communities in Sandwell don't miss out on these opportunities when they arise. We can help you to continue to deliver

excellent services through our development and training support offer. We can be more effective at doing this, if you work with us and tell us what you need. Our 2012 survey will be popping into your inboxes in the next couple of weeks and will be available on our website.

Please look out for it and have your say on how SCVO can support you and your organisation in the coming year.

If you would like to speak to anyone about the survey, or would like us to post you a copy, please contact Saffi Price: [saffi@scvo.info](mailto:saffi@scvo.info) or 0121 525 1127.