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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.

Grassroots Grants Report Highlights Success

The national Grassroots Grants programme officially ended at the end of March after three years of providing vital funds to small groups. SCVO has recently completed the final report for the Sandwell area, showing the impact of the Programme and most importantly, how we can learn from the experience for future programmes.

Over the three years, £491,810 was awarded to 257 groups, with the number of applications and the success rate rising year on year. Grants, worth up to £5,000 each, were aimed at small groups with a turnover of under £20,000. Applications came from a wide spread of areas with

each of the six towns submitting applications proportionate to the number of voluntary sector groups in existence. The most commonly funded areas of work were children's activities, hobbies/social activities, local communities, sports and exercise and elderly people's activities. Within these areas, most groups were directly providing a service with fewer numbers providing advocacy or campaigning for a cause.

The report highlighted the tremendous impact which Grassroots Grants had on its recipients. For many organisations, Grassroots Grants was literally a lifeline, enabling them to continue operating or enhance their services. The flexibility of the scheme was highly valued and while most grants were spent on rent, equipment and general running costs, others were spent on volunteer expenses, training for users, staff costs and publication production. Groups were also able to reach more or different people, thereby raising the profile of their work. For many groups the grant eased the pressure on fundraising allowing them to focus on service provision and future planning.



Sikh School of Arts were awarded £3,300 to introduce a kick boxing club to West Bromwich.

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SCVO STAFF LIST

- Chief Executive Officer:
Mark Davis

CAPACITY BUILDING TEAM

- Capacity-Building Manager:
Jan Bottle
- Organisational Development
Officer: Steve Baylis
- Organisational Development
Officer: Carole Harte
- Small Groups Development
Officer: Helen Trueman

STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT TEAM

- Strategic Engagement
Manager: Nick Drew
- Network Development Officer:
Leona Bird
- Project Officer: Martin Drayton

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- Database Administrator:
Janet Turton

SCVO Update

SCVO Receive Quality Recognition

SCVO are celebrating the recent renewal of their Quality-marked status by their national body, through a process which measures local infrastructure organisations against rigorous performance standards.

The NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) Quality Mark puts organisations through a tough assessment which tests quality across the spectrum of services provided, using feedback from member organisations, funding bodies and local partnerships. The Award challenges organisations to prove they meet the five core standards:-

- identification of need and matching of local provision to meet that need
- facilitation of effective communication, networking

and collaboration amongst voluntary organisations

- helping community groups function more effectively and provide better services
- enabling the diverse Sector to have a voice
- working to ensure the Sector plays an integral role in local decision-making

SCVO's Chief Executive Mark Davis commented "This is a great achievement for the staff and trustees of SCVO who work incredibly hard, often behind the scenes, to support and promote the many excellent voluntary organisations and community groups we have here in the borough."



Funding Buddies is Back!

Following the successful pilot of Funding Buddies earlier in the year, SCVO are now running a second round of the project. This innovative scheme matches skilled volunteers with small groups in need of support with their fundraising.

As we go to press, 16 buddies are being trained and inducted into the programme and will very soon be ready to be matched with groups. Buddies are able to help with sourcing funding, writing funding applications and developing funding strategies. Each buddy

will commit to giving at least eight hours per month to their group.

If you would like a buddy to be placed with your organisation, please contact Steve Baylis on 0121 525 1127 or steve@scvo.info. You will need to fill in an application form explaining how a buddy will benefit your work. Although we have now finished training Buddies for this round, we will add future dates if we have enough interest. Therefore, if you would like to gain the experience of being a Funding Buddy, please contact Steve on the details above.

SCVO Update

Celebrating PQASSO Success

For the past year, SCVO has been supporting organisations through PQASSO. On 27th July we held a celebration event to congratulate and recognise those who have succeeded.

PQASSO covers the key areas of running an organisation, including governance, finance and staff/volunteer management. There are three levels to achieve, each subsequent level requiring a higher level of achievement and evidence. It is a self-assessment system but SCVO have been providing a Development Officer, Carole Harte, to guide people through the process and give an external assessment. Carole explains 'It has been such a pleasure to work alongside these groups over the past year. We're in a competitive environment and organisations with robust systems to support



effectiveness and efficiency are bound to be more attractive to potential funders and contractors."

The celebration event was attended by participating organisations, SCVO and SMBC staff. The successful organisations were: Black Heath Live at Home, CRUSE Bereavement Care, Rights and Equality Sandwell, Wesley Centre for All, Murray Hall Community

Trust, FS Academy, Centre Spot CIC, Horseley Heath Education Project, Ileys Community Association and St. Albans Community Association. We congratulate them all on their success. We would also like to thank West Smethwick Enterprise for providing us with a celebratory cake! For further information on PQASSO, please contact Carole on 0121 525 1127 or carole@scvo.info

Community Grants Launched

SCVO is pleased to be working in partnership with the Black Country Consortium to deliver the Community Grants programme. The money originates from the European Social Fund (ESF) and will be allocated to projects aiming to move local people closer to the labour market.

It recognises that some workless people are a long way from the point of employment, and are not ready for mainstream education and training programmes. Therefore it will fund Grassroots organisations that are able to reach such people. Grants will be for up to £12,000 and will be awarded to groups with a turnover of under

£150,000 per year. All project participants must be unemployed or economically inactive, aged between 18 and 65, and have a right to work in the UK.

The programme supports a range of activities that include: help with basic skills, taster work experience including voluntary work, training, advice and guidance, job search assistance, confidence building and personal development and supporting individuals to overcome barriers to learning and/or employment. This project will fund revenue but not capital costs.

To receive an information pack and application form, call Toni Hickman on 01384 471160 or email toni_hickman@blackcountryconsortium.co.uk

hickman@blackcountryconsortium.co.uk. Or download a form from www.the-blackcountry.com. Applications opened 1 August and the deadline is 12 September 2011 at 5pm.

Applicants are strongly advised to attend an information workshop before applying. In Sandwell, this will be held on 16 August from 10am-12 noon at SCVO's office. To book a place, please contact Toni Hickman on the details above.



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 and to lobby Sandwell Partnership, its members or VCS representatives
- 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.

Partners Come Together Across the Black Country

On 8th July, the four Councils for Voluntary Service in the Black Country, together we provide support to around 3000 organisations across Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton held a joint conference at Walsall Football Club.

The event attracted an audience of over 100, including Chief Executives and managers from the voluntary and statutory sectors across the region, as well as James Morris, MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, who is currently serving on the Localism Bill committee (see summary later in this issue). The goal of the conference was to look at ways in which the Black Country CVS's could work together more effectively on common issues.

To start the event off, Katy Wing, a Director of NAVCA (the umbrella body for CVS's), set out some of the challenges which the sector faces in the current economic environment, as well as some of

the main policy developments since the coalition Government came to power. After this, delegates were invited to go into workshop groups to discuss four key themes for the development of voluntary and community organisations in the Black Country:

- Localism
- Health and local clinical commissioning
- The role of the voluntary sector in economic development
- Volunteering

A conference report is being compiled with the outcomes of the workshops and to set out the immediate priorities for action. On the day, the assembled delegates were also joined by social reporting firm podnosh (<http://podnosh.com>) who along with Lorna Prescott from Dudley CVS have compiled a blog for the event, which contains all the presentations as well as audio and video from the conference itself. You can view the blog at <http://blackcountryvcs.posterous.com/>



Changes to the Localism Bill

The Localism Bill has now completed its committee stage in the House of Lords, ahead of its return to the Commons after the Parliamentary recess. What has changed since it was first published?

Peers spent 10 sessions during June and July scrutinising the Localism Bill, a massive piece of legislation which has wide-ranging implications for voluntary organisations on the devolution of power to neighbourhood level, ownership of local assets and referendums on local issues. The Communities and Local Government Department published a "plain English" guide to the Bill, available at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications

Among the concerns raised by members of the Lords were the number of powers still reserved

to the Secretary of State within the Bill, despite the professed intention to devolve power. There were also discussions on the legal status and composition of the neighbourhood forums, which will be the main responsible body for neighbourhood plans. Many Peers, especially those with a history in local government, raised the issue of the effective bypassing of local authorities in the provisions of the Bill, with few of the new powers being directly allocated to the existing elected representatives of local people.

Outside Parliament, voluntary sector lobbying organisations have been vocal about some of the provisions of the Bill. The Bill proposes a stand still period and once a community organisation has expressed an interest in taking over a community asset. This would prevent assets from being sold until the organisation has had time

to assess the viability of the asset and submit detailed proposals for its use. In June, organisations including National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), Urban Forum, the YMCA, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) and Volunteering England wrote to Secretary of State Eric Pickles to express concern that the stand still period had been reduced from 6 months to 3 – this was not regarded as giving enough time for organisations to submit a viable bid. Locality, the umbrella body for community organisations, has also argued there should be provision in the Bill for communities to suggest alternative uses for under-used assets directly to local authorities, and to put such assets on the community use register which is proposed by the Bill.

Public Services White Paper Published

This long-promised White Paper was intended to open up public services to a wide range of providers – but does it deliver the opportunities it originally promised to the voluntary and community sector?

Ever since the Prime Minister announced it in February, the "Open Public Services White Paper" has been a source of speculation, particularly as it originally seemed to promise the opening-up of all public services, whether to co-operatives of former public sector employees, the private sector or voluntary and community organisations. The White Paper was published on 11th July, and it aims to make a number

of changes in the way public services are commissioned and run, including:

- Putting increased choice at the heart of the way public services are organised
- Provision of public services should be decentralised as much as possible
- The opportunity to provide public services should be open to as wide a range of providers as possible
- The role of the state is primarily to ensure fair access rather than to provide
- Public services should be responsive to the people they serve, and held to account by local citizens and their elected representatives

Much of what is in the White Paper summarises provisions which are already in the Localism Bill.

In many ways, this could be a fantastic opportunity for the voluntary sector – it could open up a wide range of services from which the VCS has previously been excluded by monopoly providers from other sectors. However, concerns remain that the White Paper focuses almost entirely on competition, not collaboration, between providers, and that this will lead to larger organisations being in a favoured position over smaller local organisations if no consideration is given to the "social value" of local services.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Sandwell Council measures progress through Scorecard

Following the abolition of the Comprehensive Area Assessment process by central government, the Council has been exploring how it can report on its performance to local people. The Council is posting up information on its website about what it is doing across a number of areas including:

- Excellent care for adults
- West Bromwich top town
- Investing in businesses people and jobs

They are keen to receive feedback from local people. To find out more, please visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/scorecard

Getting Involved in Sandwell

Neighbourhood Forums

Sandwell Council and Sandwell Police work closely together at a local level to tackle problems ranging from litter and fly tipping to intimidating and threatening behaviour by groups and individuals.

In 2010/11 over 1,400 community problems were tackled. Residents and groups can raise concerns with the council's neighbourhood managers, Police and partners at neighbourhood forums and walkabouts. These are held quarterly in all of Sandwell's 24 neighbourhoods.

To find dates and venues of these meetings, visit the community advice section of the council's website - www.sandwell.gov.uk.

These meetings gain high local interest with over 2,500 local people attending in 2010/11.

People can also raise concerns by calling the Police on 0345 113 5000 or Sandwell's Anti-Social Behaviour Helpline on 0845 359 7500. You can also text SANDWELL ASB plus your message to 60003 or email contact@sandwell.gov.uk



Get in the Spirit of London 2012

The countdown to London 2012 has begun. There will be plenty going on in Sandwell - not only sports related activities but all sorts of cultural and leisure activities.

To find out more about how your organisation can get into the spirit of London 2012 please visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/sandwell2012 where the latest news about events in Sandwell will be posted.



Public Sector Update

Scrutiny at Sandwell Council

Scrutiny is a fair and unbiased part of the council which aims to improve things in Sandwell. Scrutiny is about making Sandwell a better place to live, work and learn by dealing with the concerns of local people.

To do this, the Council:

- Involve people in scrutinising the things that are important to them
- Make sure local services meet the needs of people in Sandwell
- Hold the council and other public organisations (such as the police or NHS) to account

There are panel of local councillors who carry out investigations and reviews of services and then make recommendations. They follow up agreed recommendations at regular intervals to make sure things are improving.

Councillors often involve local community and voluntary groups in scrutiny reviews drawing on their specific expertise, views or experience of local issues. In the past year the panel have scrutinised a wide range of issues including: young carers; renewable energy; obesity; hate crime and problem debt.

Scrutiny reviews have resulted in improvements such as:

- The school admissions process for pupils on medical grounds was changed when the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel scrutinised school admissions.
- Sandwell's first dementia cafés set up as recommended by the Health and Older People Scrutiny Panel who scrutinised what was in place to support older people, people with dementia and carers.
- In response to the economic

downturn the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel suggested that empty shop fronts be 'camouflaged' to preserve the atmosphere of Sandwell's high streets.

- The establishment of LGBT youth group sHOUT following a review of support in Sandwell for LGBT young people, by the Equality and Diversity Scrutiny Panel.

All of the scrutiny reports, annual report and further information about scrutiny are available at: www.scrutiny.sandwell.gov.uk Alternatively check Facebook: www.facebook.com/scrutinyinsandwell

If you would like someone from the scrutiny unit to come and talk to you about what the panel do, please contact: Adam Richardson
Tel: 0121 569 3160
E-mail: scrutiny_unit@sandwell.gov.uk

National Indicator 7 Survey Results: Sandwell

As part of the old regime of Comprehensive Area Assessment for local authorities, a set of just under 200 National Indicators for local government was introduced on 1st April 2008. CAA and the National Indicator Set were abolished by the incoming Coalition Government and data collection ceased on 31st March 2011, and the final datasets are now being released.

Among these is the dataset

for National Indicator 7, which measured how far local authorities were creating "an environment for a thriving third sector". This was based on a national survey conducted by Ipsos MORI of voluntary and community organisations, asking them questions about their relationship with their local government partners.

The full results of the second and final survey, taken in 2010, have recently been released, and an overview of the results for Sandwell

are available here: <http://www.ncsesurvey.com/download/2010/Sandwell.pdf>

The results were based on a sample of 167 organisations surveyed within Sandwell. The headline figures suggest that, in 2010, organisational confidence in their capacity to deliver and satisfaction with funding levels had decreased overall, but satisfaction with advice and support provided in Sandwell had increased.

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATIONS UPDATE

Larger charities 'will not benefit from new charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) legal form'.

The new CIO form will not be suitable for larger charities because it will not allow them to borrow money, according to a report published by the accountancy firm Deloitte.

The Deloitte report, written with the law firm Sherrards, warns that CIOs have several disadvantages compared with regular companies. The main one is that, unlike a company, a CIO will have no way to offer security for any borrowing. "This means that if a CIO wishes to borrow money, the individual trustees may be called upon to give a personal guarantee, which defeats the purpose of operating through an incorporated entity," the report says.

The report also says that the law governing other legal forms available to charity has evolved over hundreds of years, but CIOs are a new legal entity and it will be some time before the law on them has evolved. To view the report visit: www.deloitte.co.uk/charitiesandnotforprofit

Legal and Governance

August Charities Update

First Aid at Work

The Health and Safety Executive has updated its 'Basic advice on first aid at work' leaflet. It covers such emergency situations such as, how to deal with a person who is not breathing, severe bleeding, broken bones and spinal injuries, burns and eye injuries, plus the records that should be kept. From <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg347.pdf>

Risk Management for Small Charities and New Trustees

The Charity Commission, the regulator of charities in England and Wales, has produced a web section on risk designed specifically for small charities. Aimed at small or newer charities, and for trustees just starting out, the three pages cover: ten useful questions for avoiding problems, simplified risk management for small charities, and signposting for further information or help on topics from charity law to health and safety. Visit: www.charitycommission.gov.uk

Guide to Insurance for Charities

The Charity Commission has produced a revised version of its guide which gives an overview of the different types of insurance available and clarifies legal obligations and the options trustees have when identifying and managing risks. See 'Charities and Insurance' (CC49) at www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Publications

Ready for Change Tool

Rocket Science has developed a new tool for voluntary and community sector organisations which are having to prepare for and manage change. This free tool prompts users to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses at a time when many, particularly smaller organisations, are having to adapt to a very challenging environment. Visit: www.rocketsciencelab.co.uk

Payments Council Abandons Target for Abolishing Cheques

The Payments Council has recently announced that cheques will continue for as long as customers need them and the target for possible closure of the cheque clearing in 2018 has been cancelled. The Payments Council Board will continue to focus on security, efficiency and encouraging innovation in all types of payments. Visit: www.paymentscouncil.org.uk

Help for Smaller Community activities

Community Toolkit is a new "online information resource for people who want to get involved in organising smaller, straightforward community activities". Created by Zurich Insurance to address barriers to community volunteering, it provides guidance on some legal, health and safety, insurance and planning issues. Check it out at www.communitytoolkit.co.uk

Sandwell VCS Feature



Spotlight on ...

Better Understanding of Dementia for Sandwell

This month we talk to Helen Wright (Director) from BUDS (Better Understanding of Dementia for Sandwell)

1. Tell us what you do.

BUDS aim is to improve the quality of life for people experiencing Dementia and their family carers living in Sandwell and surrounding areas. Buds started working in December 2008 and now offers four main services and volunteer opportunities. Weekly clubs are held at various venues throughout the community, offering people with Dementia the opportunity to socialise, receive support and to take part in a variety of stimulating activities. Family carers are also welcome to attend. Our Befriending Service offers weekly visits to people who have Dementia in their own homes. Visits are carried out by trained Volunteer befrienders, the aim being to reduce feelings of isolation. It also offers family carers a break from the caring role. Our overall aim is to offer support through the Dementia journey.

2. What is your proudest achievement?

We don't have one as such, just the fact we are able to reach so many people who weren't being previously supported. The feedback has been very positive

from all of those who we have worked with and supported, we are very proud of the positive effect we are having on peoples' lives locally.

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

The capacity of local people to give their time freely to support BUDS. We have a large number of volunteers, without whom we would not be able to deliver the services we do. The capacity to deliver our services has been enhanced by the enthusiasm, hard work and dedication of our volunteers, and given the current climate in the sector locally, it is refreshing to see so many people still willing to give their time freely.

4. What are the plans for the future?

It is proposed to work in partnership with IAH to explore the options of setting up a service at Onneley House, offering local people who have Dementia and their family carers support to help meet their needs. In the first instance we hope to set up a weekly club and carers support project. We will also look at how we can become more sustainable in the future by bring in charges for those who are able to pay and by expanding our chargeable



services, such as respite support.

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

From our point of view, it's having the right support available, be it financial or provision of local training opportunities. We have lots of volunteers, but it's the resources we need more than ever to ensure we are able to provide them with the right training and support.

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

Continued funding support and possibly the setting up of a funding forum where local groups can get together and discuss funding issues, something like a peer support programme. Also supporting the sector by continuing to advocate on our behalf and challenging for a stronger third sector.

For more information about BUDS please call 0121 565 3721.



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.

VCS Feature

Club Welcome New Faces

The Kingfisher Club in Cradley Heath is welcoming new members to its Tuesday evening get together.



The Club is a not for profit organisation, run by disabled people for disabled people. Every Tuesday evening they hold a social event at the Bull Terrier Pub in Cradley Heath, which is fully accessible. It is open to people over 16 who have learning disabilities. Carers are also welcome. There are many activities available including playing cards, bingo, pool and darts, or simply listening to music and having

a chat. On top of the regular evenings, The Kingfisher Club also organise day trips and holidays.

For more information, contact Les Partridge on 01384 620556 or email lesliepartridge@hotmail.co.uk.

Hill Top in the Community

The Hill Top Community Development Association was established in 2010 to help local community groups and to maintain a community presence in the Hill Top area.

As part of its responsibilities, it manages the Hill Top Community Centre. This has a variety of office space available to rent by local organisations. The spaces available are at reasonable rates and with admin support if and when requested.

The Association also supports community groups meeting at the Centre, including Sandwell Family History Society, New Life in Hill Top, Cares, an Asian music group Millenium Beat and Strides walking group. On the subject of Health, Zoom Exercise and Success slimming hold weekly sessions at the centre too.

Local young people aged 12

plus can benefit from activities organised by Hill Top Youth Club on Monday and Wednesday evenings and in school holidays, projects run by youth workers and New Life in Hill Top.

The senior citizens enjoy activity and luncheon clubs on Wednesdays and Fridays. The Friday club has vacancies and welcome new faces

For more information about the centre please call 0121 556 4322.



Resources

Beacon Centre Offers Printing Service

Beacon4Print is an exciting new venture from Beacon Centre for the Blind in Sedgley, offering a high quality, full colour print service across the Black Country and beyond.

The service forms part of the Beacon4Work Employment Service launched in 2010 and will give additional opportunities to clients with a visual impairment to gain skills in a number of task areas. The aim will be to give such clients new and enhanced skills to help them secure opportunities in the workplace.

The service will be particularly attractive to other charities, voluntary groups, schools and similar organisations with a need for occasional and often small

volume print runs for a whole range of printed matter. All profits generated will go to supporting people in the local area with a visual impairment.

Beacon4Print will accept clients' designs or offer a design capability itself as part of an overall package. The items produced will be high quality and competitively priced against those offered by commercial printers.

The range available will include;

- Letterheads
- Compliment Slips
- Business Cards
- Leaflets (DL, A6, A5, A4 etc)
- Posters (up to A0 and larger)
- Pop up Banners
- Outdoor Banners

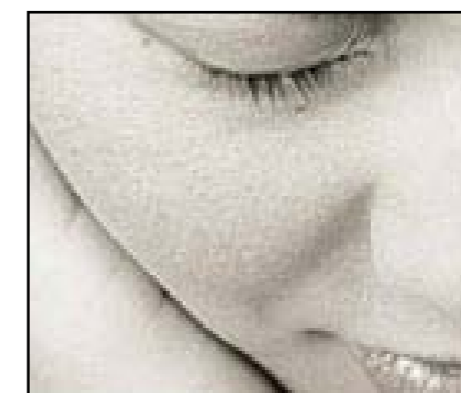
- Photographs
- Canvas Prints
- Mugs
- T-Shirts
- Canvas Bags

If you want to be advised about the upcoming availability of this service, please send your contact details to, rtrubshaw@beacon4blind.co.uk and include Beacon4Print in the subject box of your email. Alternatively, register your interest by calling 01902 880111.



Safeguarding Adults Training

Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board organises training events on safeguarding adults. This includes legislation updates and current policy. This training is free of charge to people who work with vulnerable adults that live in Sandwell.



Training is open to statutory, voluntary and private sector organisations. Topics covered include Safeguarding Awareness and Dignity in Care Settings. For a full list of courses visit the Safeguarding page of the Sandwell MBC website at www.sandwell.gov.uk

An alternative to face to face training is e-learning and this is

electronic learning page at any time to get started. Visit: www.learningpool.com/sandwell.

For more information contact Lynn Weston, Learning and Development Strategy Co-ordinator in the Safeguarding Team on 0121 543 3625 or lynn_weston@sandwell.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 detail to the directory call Janet on 0121 525 1127.

To view and search the database visit
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

E-MAIL UPDATES

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

Currently more than 900 people receive 'SCVO.INFO' by e-mail each month and 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 the Capacity Building Team on 0121 525 1127.

Volunteer Centre

Recruitment Event

As part of National Volunteer's Week, Sandwell Volunteer Centre held a recruitment event on 1st June in West Bromwich High Street.

Sharing space with Sandwell Libraries, the stall attracted a great deal of attention, raising the profile of volunteering and dealing with over 50 enquiries. BUDS (Better Understanding of Dementia in Sandwell) also hosted a stall and

gained direct registrations for their buddying scheme. Safeside volunteers from West Midlands Fire Service also attended and promoted their project about fire and personal safety. The event had a high impact both for the Volunteer Centre in terms of awareness raising and for the groups who gained new volunteers.

For more information contact Jean Taylor at the Volunteer Centre on 0121 544 8326.

Annual Awards Ceremony

The Volunteer Centre held their annual awards ceremony on 7th June at The Public. Over 200 people attended the event which was hosted by local historian and broadcaster Professor Carl Chinn.

It was a great opportunity to recognise and celebrate the often unnoticed work and involvement of volunteers in our community. Five main awards were made and over 80 certificates were awarded throughout the event. The awards were the Environmental Volunteer Award, Community Individual Award, Health and Social Care

Award, Young Volunteer Award and Organisation Award, which went to Sandwell Witness Service. All winners spoke about their experiences of volunteering and how it has helped them develop and achieve. John Garrett, Director for Place at Sandwell MBC spoke about the contribution of volunteers to society and the Mayor, Councillor Joyce Underhill, ended the event by reading a poem.

For more information contact Jean Taylor at the Volunteer Centre on 0121 544 8326 or jean.taylor@volunteercentresandwell.co.uk



Funding Extra

Local People in Charge Through New Trust

The Big Lottery Fund has recently appointed the Community Development Foundation (CDF) to lead on a £200 million programme that will empower local people across England to turn their neighbourhoods into better places to live.

The first 50 neighbourhoods were announced by BIG last summer

and included the Grace Mary and Lion Farm area of Sandwell. This neighbourhood will receive at least £1 million of lottery money to spend within 10 years. The vision of the programme is to enable and empower local people to make their neighbourhood a better place to live in, now and in the future. The CDF will now be supporting this neighbourhood to access this money. During 2011 £30,

000 is available for community involvement and consultation activities to help put this area in a better position to use the lottery money which will be available in 2012.

If you would like further information about the BIG Local Programme please contact Kuldip Kang at the Big Lottery Fund on 0121 345 7907.

Early Learning in Sandwell

Sandwell MBC has funding for supporting families and children in the borough.

The offer is for 15 hours of high quality early years provision with the added benefit of Family Support and Home Learning Support. The offer will be delivered through children's centres and access to the offer will be through a referral process. The providers of the 15 hours nursery time will have

to have an Ofsted rating of good or above and be in the process of completing EYQISP. (Early Years Quality Improvement Support Programme).

The 15 hours can be claimed by families who are in receipt of one or more of the following: income support; income based jobseekers allowance; child tax credit; extra working tax credit; pension credit.

In addition to these, families must also meet one of other locally set factors.

For more information regarding eligibility or the referral process and an application pack please contact:

Sandwell Family Information Service on 0121 569 4914 or Early Years & Childcare Unit on 0121 569 4960

Grassroots Grants Success

Continued from front page.

The report also highlighted that a smaller number of groups used the grant and the experience of applying to considerably boost their future sustainability. The simple application and monitoring procedures gave vital experience and confidence to groups who previously had little. This enabled them to gain a track record and in some cases directly led to the securing of further funding. One group talked specifically of the

grant transforming them from a small community group into a genuine community service. The funded activities enabled them to show the need in their community and therefore gave them evidence to use in future bids.

Overall, the report showed the importance of small, flexible grant programmes to the Voluntary Sector. Grassroots Grants gave evidence that at the less developed end of the Sector, small amounts of money

stretch a long way and enable vast amounts of work to be done in local communities. In light of this evidence and in this political climate, where Big Society and Localism are key agendas, we would hope to see future funding of a similar nature. SCVO will, of course, keep you posted with any future developments. If you would like more detailed information from the final Grassroots Grants report, please contact Jan Bottle on 0121 525 1127.

SANDWELL TRENDS

Are you applying for funding? Use Sandwell Trends

Give your application an edge by visiting www.sandwelltrends.info where you will find up to date accurate information about Sandwell. This will help you to give funders the evidence they want to see about why your proposed project is needed.

The site enables you to cut and paste specific text, tables, maps and charts from the site into your funding application and this is all free of charge. The information about Sandwell Trends is put together by Research Sandwell, a small team within Sandwell Council. By quoting this as the source of your information about levels of need in Sandwell you will give prospective funders added confidence in the data and enable them to check data on the site if they wish.

If you would like further information please contact Sandwell Trends on 0121 569 3078.

Funding and Sustainability

August Funding Digest

Lottery Funding

Awards for All has changed

Awards for All England has announced some important changes to its funding programme. Awards for All England is a simple small grants scheme making awards of between £300 and £10,000 to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need. To achieve this, Awards for All will fund activities that:

- Provide people with better access to training and development to improve their life skills
- Build stronger communities with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems
- Improve rural and urban environments which communities are better able to access and enjoy
- Provide for healthier and more active people and communities.

The changes announced mean that organisations can now apply for £10,000 every year rather than every two years, and Awards for All will now fund repeat events and activities more than three years apart. Applications to the programme can be made at any time. www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/summary.html

Grant Making Trusts and Foundations

Charles Akrill Trust

The Trustees of the Charles Akrill Trust are inviting applications for their funds and are anxious

that people living in Sandwell are aware of its existence. The Trust aims to help those who are disadvantaged sick and/or poor. The trust was set up in 1955 to provide benefits for sick, disabled or poor people resident in the borough of Sandwell. Recently the trust has provided: a bath hand rail for someone to bathe more easily, help with a garden alteration so that a severely disabled child could play outside, a grant towards the installation of a shower and a contribution to a group arranging holidays for people with disabilities. These are just some illustrations of the work of the Trust.

The trustees can consider applications from the following categories but other requests will always be given consideration:

- Grants to help with the purchase of specialist items of equipment to assist with specific problems
- Supply of extra bedding, medical or surgical appliances (not provided by the NHS), help with fuel bills due to illness or disability, and many other items.
- Grants for furniture and other household items e.g. cots and beds for children as they grow, for changes in family circumstances or when moving house.
- Groups and organisations giving support to disadvantaged people may in some circumstances be eligible for grants.

Details of the applicants and their needs must be submitted in writing to The Secretary, The Akrill Trust, c/o Silks Solicitors, Barclays

Funding and Sustainability

Bank Chambers, 27 Birmingham St., Oldbury B69 4EZ

Hilden Charitable Fund

The Hilden Charitable Fund gives grants to projects that address disadvantage, in particular, homelessness; asylum seekers and refugees; community based initiatives for disadvantaged young people; and penal affairs. Visit: www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk/about.htm

Clothworkers' Foundation

The Clothworkers' Foundation funds work to improve the quality of life, particularly for people and communities facing disadvantage. Visit: www.clothworkers.co.uk/Grant-Making

The Santander Foundation

The Santander Foundation funds local, regional and national charities for their work within the UK. They are committed to helping disadvantaged people through their two charitable priorities. Please visit: www.santanderfoundation.org.uk

William Adlington Cadbury Chairtable Trust

The Trust has the following priorities:

- Social welfare: community and self-help groups working with the disadvantaged (including young, old, ethnic and religious minorities, women, the homeless and the disabled), counselling and mediation agencies
- Education and training: schools and universities, adult literacy schemes, training for employment.
- Places of religious worship

and associated social projects

- Conservation of the environment including the preservation of listed buildings and monuments
- Arts: music, drama and the visual arts, museums and art galleries.
- Penal affairs: work with offenders and ex-offenders, penal reform, police projects.

Exclusions: The Trust does not fund:

- Individuals (whether for research, expeditions or educational purposes)
- Projects concerned with travel, adventure, sports or recreation.
- Organisations which do not have UK charity registration (except those legally exempt from registration) or
- Overseas charities not registered in the UK.

Applications are considered on a continuing basis throughout the year. Small grants (amounts not exceeding £2,000) are assessed each month. Larger grants are awarded at the Trustees' Meetings held twice annually, normally in May and November. Applicants whose appeals are to be considered at one of these meetings will be notified in advance and asked to complete an application form. Please visit: www.wa-cadbury.org.uk

Sport England

The Protecting Playing Fields (PPF) scheme will fund capital projects to establish, develop and improve playing fields for community and sporting use. Sport England have launched the Places People Play programme to create a legacy of participation for the 2012 London Olympic and

Paralympic Games, investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects over three years from 2011-2014. The scheme is open to charities, community and voluntary associations, local authorities and educational institutions and offers grants of £20,000 to £50,000. The next round will open on 24 October and close on 12 December 2011.

Please visit: www.sportengland.org/funding/protecting_playing_fields.aspx

Free Solar Panels for Charities

Green energy company Freetricity has unveiled a £500m fund to install solar panels on the roofs of buildings, and is offering charities access to the first £100m. The company has partnered with investor LightSource Renewables to offer 800 buildings grants of up to £150,000 to install and maintain solar panels. As well as reducing carbon emissions the company claims that solar panels can save organisations up to £6,000 per year. Solar panels are being offered on a first-come first-served basis. Interested charities should sign up at www.freetricityenergy.com.

For support with identifying and applying to these and other funding opportunities, contact Steve Baylis at SCVO on 0121 525 1127 or e-mail: steve@scvo.info.

To download the full Funding Digest visit www.scvo.info (under 'Get Support').

Visit our Funding Information Web Portal at 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.

The deadline for articles for the October/November 2011 issue is Friday 23 September 2011.

SCVO Training - Book Now

SCVO's Training Programme for 2011-2012 is now well underway and is already receiving some great feedback.

One participant told us, 'I am now fully aware of fundraising basics, processes and areas to approach for funding. Really, really useful course'.

If you haven't already seen the

brochure, take a look online at www.scvo.info. This year we have our widest ever range of courses. Topics covered range from Fundraising Basics to Leadership Skills and Information Management. Many courses are free, with others requiring a minimal fee.

For more information, call the Capacity Building Team on 0121 525 1127.

Drop In for Support and Advice

For all organisations based in and around Sandwell, SCVO are now offering a drop in service.

You can get support and advice on sourcing funding, funding applications and organisational financial issues such as payroll, purchase and sales ledgers and

day to day accounting issues. These drop in sessions will be running on the last Wednesday of every month. Sessions will run from 12 noon - 3pm

These sessions are free, but you are advised to book in advance. Please call SCVO on 0121 525 1127.

SCVO AGM

SCVO members and local partner organisations are advised that the date of our next Annual General Meeting has now been set for Thursday 3rd November 2011, to be held at Sandwell Council Chambers, Oldbury.

It has been a year of change and challenge for the voluntary sector in Sandwell. The impact of the economic climate, new proposals for commissioning of voluntary sector services, major planned changes in health and other issues have come to the fore in the last twelve months.

SCVO's AGM will be a chance to take stock, review how SCVO has worked to support the sector, and review the organisation's priorities going forward. This year, for the first time, our AGM will be combined with a new regular event, our Voluntary and Community Sector Leaders' Summit, where a wide range of leading individuals from the VCS in Sandwell will debate the main issues facing the Sector.

Further details and timing for the AGM will follow closer to the date itself.