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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.*

## An Exciting Expansion to SCVO's Buddies Programme

**SCVO has recently been awarded funding through the Social Action Fund to expand its highly regarded business and funding buddies pilot projects. We are looking to recruit volunteer buddies and voluntary and community sector organisations to host a buddy to offer support in funding, business, finance or marketing/media.**

Over the next 20 months SCVO will be working initially across Sandwell and then expand into our neighbouring Black Country boroughs to recruit volunteers. We are looking for individuals who have expertise and experience in Funding, Media/Marketing, Business and Finance. Two areas of particular focus will be undergraduates and newly retired individuals.

We will work with public sector, business sector, higher education institutions and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). SCVO will provide support for volunteers to apply their work-based skills in placements with host small and medium sized voluntary and community sector organisations. VCS organisations can apply to host a buddy to work with them in one or more of the areas mentioned above. SCVO will be working closely with Sandwell Volunteers and other volunteer agencies and infrastructure organisations across the Black Country. SCVO will be employing two full-time members of staff and a part-time administrator to lead on the project which will add to the Capacity Building Team.

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## Tribute to Liz Mabley

**One of the most recognised, well known and best loved community figures in Sandwell sadly passed away in early December 2011.**

Liz began work in Sandwell in 1971 as a teacher at Devonshire Rd primary, moving on to Corbett St School in Smethwick in 1972. In 1974 she moved to the home school links team, putting community development at the heart of her work.

From there Liz went on to be a founder member of the Community Links team and played an important role in Tipton City Challenge, the Lottery Fair Share programme and a range of other major regeneration schemes. As a reward for her hard work and commitment as an active champion for community development, she was awarded an MBE in 2001.

From 2002 Liz began to work very closely with Gary Bowman (pictured with Liz, right) to establish Sandwell Partnership,



building strong community networks across Sandwell. Local people and community organisations remained at the heart of Liz's work and she won enormous respect and warmth from them.

Liz was a much loved, larger than life woman - elegant, warm, with an instantly recognisable laugh, who always made room in her life for other people.

She will be greatly missed.

## Reminder: Support for Groups in Areas of Smethwick

**If you are involved with a group that is based, active or has beneficiaries in St Pauls and Smethwick wards, dedicated development support is currently available via SCVO's Community Support Programme.**

The type and range of support includes: writing constitutions,

choosing the right structure, running a management committee, finding funding and writing applications, creating policies, plus much more.

For more information please contact Helen Trueman at SCVO on 0121 525 1127. Email: helen@scvo.info

## Commissioners' Forum Update

**SCVO convenes a regular meeting of public sector commissioners, to allow them to share good practice in commissioning the voluntary and community sector, identify common issues and discuss new approaches and opportunities.**



It was first developed to fill a gap, as an opportunity for the disparate commissioners who worked with the voluntary sector to meet, which might not normally happen in the course of their everyday work. However, in recent months, since the appointment of Martin Samuels as Service Director for Commissioning in the "People"

theme of Sandwell MBC, there have been efforts internally in the Council to bring commissioners together into one team with common approaches and processes. We are also really pleased that Martin has made a commitment to attend and contribute to the Forum. Whilst the meetings to date

haven't involved the voluntary and community sector directly, there was discussion around holding regular "meet the commissioners" events to bring commissioners together with VCS organisations. SCVO is liaising with Martin Samuels to work out the details of this, so we will keep you informed of developments.

If there are issues which you think should be brought to the attention of the Commissioners' Forum, please contact Nick Drew, on 0121 525 1127. Email: nick@scvo.info

## Provider Support Offer

**One of the recommendations contained in a recent report to Sandwell Council's Strategic Resources Cabinet Action Team was that some funding would be available to the voluntary and community sector to assist organisations in adjusting to the new procurement environment.**



SCVO is now involved in discussions about how this funding can be spent to benefit the widest range of voluntary and community sector organisations. It is envisaged that this will include:

- "Market shaping": Bringing together SMBC commissioners and voluntary sector organisations to help build a greater understanding

of the market presence of the VCS in particular service delivery areas;

- Sustainability through transition: support for business development, contract readiness and collaboration, in identified service areas; and
- Information and advice on

funding opportunities: ensure that notifications about local funding opportunities are reaching the right audience and that organisations can access the right information in order to give themselves the best possible chance of success in competitive funding processes.

This support offer is still developing, and we would welcome comments or suggestions from the voluntary sector on the what sort of assistance would be most useful.

For more information please contact Nick Drew on 0121 525 1127. Email: nick@scvo.info

## 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.

## Public Sector News

### Leaders' Forum Update

**In November, the Voluntary and Community Sector Leaders' Forum, a group of senior voluntary sector managers convened by SCVO, met with Kerry Bolister, who was appointed in the summer of 2011 as Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council's Area Director for Homes and Communities.**

Kerry gave the Forum an introduction to her role, which encompasses housing in all its facets, and functions around community development and community safety, and gave a few pointers as to how voluntary and

community sector providers could engage with her and her staff. In particular, she was keen to set up an opportunity for voluntary and community sector provider organisations to meet with the contractors who are delivering the newbuild housing in the Borough, to explore the potential for the sector to provide services to tenants on the new developments which are currently being built, as well as a specific event to discuss allocation of Section 106 funding. SCVO is working with Kerry to set this up, so please get in touch with Nick Drew on 0121 525 1127 or email [nick@scvo.info](mailto:nick@scvo.info)

### New plan for Sandwell's Libraries

**The Council is developing a series of practical proposals for re shaping Sandwell's library service that will allow budgets to be reduced whilst still delivering quality library services and empowering communities to become involved in developing services for their area.**

The Innovation and Evaluation plan includes sections on:

- Premises - including exploring how co- location and sharing space with other agencies might work
- Community management - including the involvement of volunteers and friends groups
- Going digital
- Evaluation - what works and learning from national best

practice and will lay the basis for a re shaped library service over the next 3-5 years.

What voluntary and community organisations can do:

- Take a look at the plan available on the Councils website
- If you would like to comment on any aspect of the plan then please contact Heather Vickerman on 0121 569 4906 or email [heather\\_vickerman@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:heather_vickerman@sandwell.gov.uk)
- If you are interested in using space in a library or sharing accommodation please contact Dawn Winter on 0121 569 4922 or email [dawn\\_winter@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:dawn_winter@sandwell.gov.uk)

## National Policy Update

### Public Health Transition

**Sandwell Primary Care Trust is making progress on the transition of public health to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC).**

To oversee the process, a Steering Group consisting of Directors from both Sandwell Primary Care Trust and SMBC, has been established. A Project Board will project manage the transition process and Sandwell PCT have been working on the transition plan and a first draft of this has been submitted to the Strategic Health Authority. The final plan must be completed by March 2012.

Over the next year Sandwell PCT will undertake work, as part of the development of the Health and Wellbeing Board strategy and priorities, to develop proposed commissioning plans for the future and establishing recommendations for commissioning post April 2013. They will agree these plans through Council processes as part of the Council business planning and

budgetary cycle and will undertake procurement during 2012/13 jointly, to ensure continuity of service in 2013.

In the mean time all public health contracts have been mapped onto a detailed database and compared this with the mapped budget as above, to ensure its completeness and accuracy. Sandwell PCT have identified the contracts that were due to expire in March 2012 in order to establish immediate actions to ensure maintenance of the public health system throughout this transition year. While ensuring that the number of commitments beyond that date are minimised to allow for the commissioning strategy and plans to be agreed through Council processes and in line with the Health and Wellbeing Board priorities.

The following three headline areas of action have been agreed to ensure smooth transition of the arrangements:-



- Undertaking work to extend contracts for 2012/13 where required and within PCT financial instructions
- Identifying the contracts for transfer and progress the arrangements to ensure these are innovated to the Council by April 2013
- Agreeing through the processes, as described above, plans for future services commissioning and using Sandwell MBC procurement processes to establish these from April 2013. A member of public health/PCT contract staff will be seconded to support this process in the Council to ensure continuity.

### Localism Act Update

**After much debate and speculation, and many changes during its passage through Parliament, the Localism Act 2011 is now in force.**

Many of its provisions are now due to come into force in April 2012, including:

- the "Right to Challenge" (the ability for community groups to challenge inadequate delivery of services by public sector providers and their contractors, to express an interest in delivering those services

themselves, and to instigate a procurement process for those services);

- the "Right to Build" (a power for communities to instigate developments that they feel are required in their local area - for example shops, playgrounds, new schools)
- a "Community Right to Bid" for local assets with community value (which will require Councils to compile a list of assets of community value in each authority area);
- the power to put in place

"neighbourhood plans" for a local area.

These, among other provisions in the Bill, could be very significant for the voluntary sector in Sandwell. SCVO has linked up with the Chamberlain Forum to organise a briefing event, to answer some of the questions which are raised by the legislation. The event is due to take place on 15th February 2012 at SCVO's offices in West Bromwich - for more information, please contact Leona Bird on 0121 525 1127. Email: [Leona@scvo.info](mailto:Leona@scvo.info)

## 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.

## Public Sector Update

# Important: Update your Profile Settings on finditinsandwell

**Are you a registered user on findit? Have you stopped receiving emails about the latest news and contracting opportunities from the findit team?**

The findit team sent an email to remind everyone about the change to sectors. It's a good idea to check your spam or junk mail folder for info on the change. You should also check your profile settings, especially if you've stopped receiving update emails from findit.

Follow the steps below to make sure you get the latest news:

1. Visit [www.finditinsandwell.co.uk](http://www.finditinsandwell.co.uk).
2. Login to findit using your email and password.
3. Once you've logged in click through to Edit your profile on the right hand side.
4. On the screen that appears click the Sectors tab. Findit's sectors have been completely redesigned and now contain nearly 10,000 different sub-sectors. This allows users to match their opportunities more accurately. The easiest

way to select your sectors is to use the search box below the drop down window.

5. It's Important not to be too specific, allowing the site to find all of the relevant sectors for you, e.g. using keywords separately allows you to find more sub-sectors.
6. In the large box you will be asked to select sub-sectors.
7. Click Save Selection after each search you perform.

You should now receive updates for your selected sectors from findit. However, to make certain you receive news, please click on the Edit details tab and make sure you do the following:

1. Checked the email alerts box;
2. Updated your mail address clicking Change email;
3. Click Update to save changes.

If you have any technical difficulties please contact the findit team, tel: 0121 569 2097. Alternatively, you can use the Contact Us section on [www.finditinsandwell.co.uk](http://www.finditinsandwell.co.uk) to send your message.



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

## Volunteering

# Celebrating and Honouring Sandwell Volunteers

**Volunteer Centre Sandwell, over the past two years, has held an Awards Event in National Volunteer's Week 1-7 June 2012 at The PUBLIC West Bromwich.**

Both of these Awards were chaired by local historian Dr Carl Chinn MBE and were very well supported. Feedback from evaluations received commented on the tremendous hard work produced by organisations which

involve volunteers and volunteers alike.

This year, The Volunteer Centre would like to say a big thank you to all our volunteers, in a format that is fitting and appropriate for current times. Jean Taylor CEO says, "We are inviting as many Sandwell organisations to nominate their volunteers this year to demonstrate how much these special individuals are highly favoured"

The process is simple. All that is required is the name of the volunteer and of the organisation where the volunteer gives his/her time. Volunteer Centre Sandwell has this year produced special 'Thank You' certificates which will be signed and sent to organisations for distribution.

**Closing date for nominations is Friday 13 April 2012.**

## National Student Volunteer Week

**20-26 February 2012 will see National Student Volunteer Week.**

In the last major study over 50% of surveyed students reported formally volunteering since they started university, giving over 3 million hours to communities in 2009/10 academic year.

Jean Taylor CEO says "in Sandwell, many students who volunteer are driven to do so out of a desire to improve things or to help people. Through their involvement in volunteering students can apply their learning to new contexts. This in turn can also improve employability by developing skills employers' value".

In such economically uncertain times young people as a group need opportunities that can help them look to a future with more

hope. Volunteering can improve confidence and self esteem by providing opportunities for students to meet new people, make friends and share in challenging and exciting new experiences.

"Student Volunteering Week is a fantastic way of celebrating the contribution that students have made to communities across the country and of encouraging others to get involved. The range and diversity of activities that students are involved in is truly inspirational and the value of their contribution is incalculable. The challenge for the volunteering movement is to ensure that enough meaningful opportunities are created to capture the

imagination and enthusiasm of students and that support and guidance is in place to maximise the impact of their contribution quote from." Justin Davis Smith CEO Volunteering England.

In support of encouraging student volunteering, and local Sandwell residents. Volunteer Centre Sandwell holds a drop in session the first Friday of each month at West Bromwich Central Library. The next session will be Friday 3 February, from 2.30pm to 4pm.

There is a Volunteer Advisor available to provide information and support on current volunteer opportunities. For more details contact 0121 544 8326 or email [vcadmin@btconnect.com](mailto:vcadmin@btconnect.com)



**Volunteer Centre**  
Sandwell

## 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.

## Legal and Governance

# February Charities Update

## Vetting and Barring Scheme Update

In November 2012 we are told to expect to see the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) merge to become a single public body called the Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS). This new organisation will provide a barring and criminal records disclosure service. In the meantime though it's business as usual. Safeguarding duties introduced in October 2009 continue to apply. An organisation which knowingly employs a barred person to work with children or vulnerable adults will be breaking the law. A new e-newsletter, launched in January, is designed to keep those working with children and vulnerable people informed about the progress of the Protection of Freedom Bill and the Vetting and Barring Scheme and Criminal Records Regime Reviews. For information visit [www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk) or phone the CRB helpline 0870 90 90 811.

## National Insurance Holiday for Charities Generating Income from Trading

New businesses set up outside London, the South East and the East of England after 22 June 2010 may be entitled to a holiday on employer's national insurance contributions for the first 10 employees hired during the business's first year of operation. The NICs holiday will last for the first 52 weeks of employment or until 5 September 2013. The

holiday is not an automatic right but a holiday of up to £5,000 per employee is possible for successful employers. Only new charities which have a business element are eligible. The National Insurance Contributions Act 2011, which set up the scheme, is at [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)

## New European Directive on Commissioning

The European Commission has published draft rules on public procurement that are expected to make it easier for charities to win public sector contracts. The proposed directive, published in December, is intended to simplify European Union commissioning laws. The directive says it will invite public bodies to break down contracts so that small organisations can bid for them. If the bodies refuse to do so they should publish an explanation. It will also aim to reduce the documentation needed by smaller organisations to bid for contracts successfully. The directive proposes that public sector commissioners should consider the social impact of organisations that bid for contracts. However, it is not clear whether this part of the directive would place additional requirements on the UK government, which is already backing the bill, introduced by Chris White, the Conservative MP for Warwick & Leamington. This would require commissioners of public sector services to consider how they might "promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing" of their local area through contract.

## Sandwell VCS Feature



### Spotlight on ...

## Hill Top Community Development Association

**This month Hill Top Community Development Association are in the spotlight. 'SCVO. INFO' talks to Carole Griffiths, Chairperson of the Association.**

### 1. Tell us what you do.

The Association was established in 2010 and we are a Registered Charity. We aim to help groups using Hill Top Community Centre to obtain grants and provide a community resource that offers space to local groups to run activities from. The Centre has training rooms and office space available for groups at reduced rates and for private hire.

There's always lots going on here and regular users of the Centre include: Success Slimming Club; Zoom exercise; Karate; Sandwell Family History Group; Millennium Beat Music Group; Cruse Bereavement Care and CARES. There are also training activities running at the Centre, two lunch clubs including a service for the housebound and a Youth Club.

### 2. What is your proudest achievement?

My proudest moment for the Association was when we launched, after helpful advice from SCVO with our constitution and setting up. I'm also proud of the formal collaborative working the Association is starting to get involved in and we recently joined

Sandwell Community Hubs Co-operative Ltd, which was a totally new experience for us.

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

The most valuable lesson I have learnt about working with people in Sandwell is recognising diversity and equality and understanding people's general outlook on life. There are many different groups of people in Sandwell all striving for the same aims in life, but mainly people need to enjoy a safe and enjoyable environment with the company of like minded people. For us this means our local youth club, luncheon club, church, slimming club, karate and striders club. People join together to enjoy the same hobbies and to meet a social need. It is our remit to enable and encourage this activity whilst supporting local groups in new initiatives.

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

I would like to see the Centre used even more than it is now and welcome in local groups delivering new activities for Hill Top. We would also like to help the new groups apply for funding to help meet their needs. We can help the residents of Hill Top in so many ways, but if we could start to help improve literacy skills and give

people a helping hand back into work this might build confidence and strengthen the community.

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

Small organisations are finding the public sector funding cuts difficult and everyone is struggling to find resources to support the Sector. Helping local communities is what we do best so it would mean a great deal to the Sector to be in a strong position to bid for funds – alone or in collaboration with others.

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

SCVO are friendly, approachable and give out good advice. SCVO try to help people and most importantly they will physically come out to meet you, get to know your organisation and when they don't have all the answers they signpost you to places of support. The one-to-one local support that SCVO offers is so important but the Sector also needs to know more about national sources of support. Please keep sending out the information about specialist projects and support services, e.g. legal advice projects, otherwise nobody will know just how much support there is out there for the Sector.

## DRAMA AND ARTS OPPORTUNITIES

### Funny Bunny Brings You Drama and Art Opportunities.

Funny Bunny charity Project works with people with a learning disability/difficulty, aged 18 plus who are interested in drama.

Funny Bunny Charity Project have a mobile drama theatre company, which travels around Sandwell and other areas of the Midlands performing shows for the public.

Activities include acting, singing, learning about operating sound and lighting equipment, make-up and making scenery.

If you would like further information, are interested in joining or know someone who would like to. Please contact Stephen Fleet on 07887 942704. Email: [stephenfleet837@btinternet.com](mailto:stephenfleet837@btinternet.com)

## Resources and Support

### All Aboard the Eco Bus

**Local charity Tipton Litter Watch has a unique way of spreading their message about environmental issues across Sandwell. THE ECO BUS!**

The Eco Bus is a refurbished double decker bus. It aims to provide a fun, interactive and informative classroom where young people and the local community can learn about environmental responsibilities and the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling waste from the home.

The bus is FREE to use by all Sandwell schools and the local community to use subject to availability. Each visit will include a series of activities, workshops and games for all to enjoy with themes based on recycling, litter picking, planting, food waste,



composting, renewable energy and many more!

For further information and to book the Eco Bus please call Alicia or Becky on 0121 544 3916 or email [tiptonlitter@aol.com](mailto:tiptonlitter@aol.com)

### The Olympics in Sandwell

**There are lots of opportunities to get involved in Sandwell 2012 this is your opportunity to be a part of the Olympics in Sandwell.**

There is now lots of activity going on in Sandwell for 2012. A new partnership website is live at [www.sandwell2012.co.uk](http://www.sandwell2012.co.uk)

It includes important dates, events, news and information of Sandwell Stars. There is also a Sandwell for 2012 partnership group that meet regularly to network and work on events for

2012 including planning for when the Olympic Torch Relay comes to Sandwell on 30 June passing through the towns of Oldbury, Smethwick and West Bromwich.

If you would like to find out more visit [www.sandwell2012.co.uk](http://www.sandwell2012.co.uk) or you can email [leisure@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@sandwell.gov.uk)



## Sandwell VCS Feature

### Prime Minister's Visit to Sandwell

**David Cameron attended Sandwell to announce the launch of over £400 million funding to help members of England's most troubled families. The announcement was made on the 15 December 2011 when the Prime Minister attended local voluntary and community organisation, Krunch.**

The Prime Minister highlighted the fact that the Coalition Government is keen to strengthen the social recovery of the Country as they are in strengthening the economy. At present the Government system and the services being provided are not helping those with multiple disadvantages, whether through drug addiction, crime and disruption. The services currently being provided are often disjointed and families and the issues that they are experiencing are not seen as a whole. An estimate of £9 billion is spent on around 120,000 troubled families, equating to £75,000 per year per family.

David Cameron went on to say that the State have failed these families in the past, however much work is being undertaken to improve schools, create safer streets and reform the welfare system.

The launch of this funding would be to enable a key worker to put an action plan in place to help these identified families to access services but also to enable them to start taking responsibility for



Left to right David Cameron, Lynsey Grant and John Grant, Krunch

their own actions.

In Sandwell the data at present suggests that there are over 1,000 troubled families and in February the Local Authority will be asked to provide information of where these families are located. The funding provided will make up 40% with the Local Authority contributing 60%. The Prime Minister highlighted that social action as well as State action was needed to make this initiative work and payment would only be received upon result. The emphasis on the voluntary and community sector's role in supporting this social action was highlighted.

A copy of full speech that was given can be viewed at [www.politics.co.uk/comment-analysis/2011/12/15/cameron-problem-family-speech-live](http://www.politics.co.uk/comment-analysis/2011/12/15/cameron-problem-family-speech-live)

### Quotes

- "Krunch with a K. A brilliant Voluntary organisation that is doing a huge amount to help mend the broken society." David Cameron, Prime Minister.
- "Krunch, A place that takes young people at a Krunch time in their lives, turns them around, gives them an opportunity, gives them hope, gives them a prospect of a better life" Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

### 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 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 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.

## Greets Green Gets a New Community Centre

**A new Community Resource Centre in Harwood Street was officially unveiled by Lord King of West Bromwich on Wednesday 21 December.**

The Centre is a partnership initiative between the Sandwell Council, Confederation of Bangladeshi Organisations and the Big Lottery Fund dedicated to providing a One-Stop-Shop facility.

This modern facility, located in the heart of the Greets Green community, will provide services and activities including a youth club, skills and vocational training, health and fitness club, conference and meeting facilities, and crèche and child care.

The launch ceremony was attended by local dignitaries, community workers and members of the public. Leader of the Council, Darren Cooper, Chief Executive of Sandwell, Jan Britton and Councillor John Edwards addressed the attendees and spoke about how the new Centre is a vital resource for the community at a time of other service and spending cuts.

Dr Mike Beazley from the University of Birmingham hailed the work of local Bangladeshi people in their on-going community-led regeneration efforts which started in 2001.

Abdul Hannan, Anam Choudhury, Shabud Ullah, and Mohammed Rohim spoke about the growth and development of their organisations, CBO and Hidden Talents Partnership, and how their hard work and perseverance has culminated in the form of this very important facility for the local community.

Lifetime Achievement Awards were handed to Councillor Gurcharan Singh Sidhu, Mr Hiron Miah, Mr Zia Chowdhury, and Mr Musleh Uddin for their long-established work and service for the people of Sandwell which included the founding of CBO in 1985.

For more information please contact Shabud Ullah. Email [info@cbo786.co.uk](mailto:info@cbo786.co.uk) or visit [www.cbo786.co.uk](http://www.cbo786.co.uk) and [www.hiddentalentspartnership.com](http://www.hiddentalentspartnership.com)



## Awards for All Help Friends Learn Together

**The Black Country may be famous for its industrial heritage but don't let that fool you. Artistic creativity can be found in equal measure, as Friends United Learning Together in Smethwick prove.**

With a grant of £7,980 from Awards for All they run weekly IT based arts and crafts workshops for the older generation, offering vital support and friendship. Janet Banks is a 24 hour carer for her adult son. She suffers depression and these classes are the only break she gets from her responsibilities. She said "It's a long day on my own. That's why it's nice to get out and meet other people. It's a chance to get away from my problems and forget about it for a while."

Barbara Bright, a professional teacher who runs the classes said "the sessions give people a



chance to learn new skills and be creative, but it's more than that. They come here because they feel safe. It is their friendship, their support and often their respite. It makes a huge difference to their well-being."

Do you have a project idea that could improve people's lives? Find out more about Awards for All by visiting [www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk) or calling 0845 4 10 20 30

## Compact in Action

**Following the announcement of a funding opportunity, concerns were raised by a number of Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations over the time-scales given to get applications submitted. SCVO raised these concerns on behalf of the Sector.**

The issues related to Positive Activities for Young People funding for 2012/13 Voluntary and Community Sector organisations were given 6 weeks to apply, including the Christmas period, yet there had been 8 months lead

in to the start of the application process and 3 months assigned for assessment and decision making.

Organisations felt under real pressure, having to respond to tight deadlines over a holiday period. This was raised by SCVO on 5 December as a Compact issue. Sandwell Council has formally responded with an apology, explaining the reasons for the protracted discussions about the allocation of the resources, acknowledging that it would have been better if the procurement process could have started earlier in the year and that, although a

longer deadline had been given, their actions had fallen short of the spirit of the Compact.

The Council has already begun work on the funding, service specification and procurement process for next year's awards, in order to avoid the risk of applications being rushed again. Essentially the Compact provides an opportunity for both sides to explain their point of view and try to understand the other's perspective. This helps to build stronger relationships and to learn lessons for the future.

## MEET THE FUNDER EVENT

SCVO are running a Training and Meet the Funder Event on Thursday 3 May.

This event will enable you to hear from both Lloyds TSB and Children in Need about their area priorities, followed up by the opportunity to have a 1:1 session to discuss your project idea. Prior to the event, all attendees requesting a 1:1 session with a funder will be asked to submit a one page project outline which will be sent to the funder before the event to enable them to feedback and discuss during the 1:1 session.

Places will be strictly limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis and will be limited to 14 places.

If you would like to attend, please contact Steve Baylis email: [Steve@scvo.info](mailto:Steve@scvo.info) or 0121 525 1127

## Funding and Sustainability

# February Funding Digest

### Funding to tackle gang and youth violence

The Home Office has announced the twenty-two areas (including Sandwell which has provisionally been allocated £302,747) which will receive £10 million of Home Office support to tackle gang and youth violence. A further £2.5m will be allocated to up to eight additional areas which can provide evidence that they have a significant gang or youth violence problem. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/provisional-funding-allocations?view=Binary>

### 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. The Fund also supports individual members wishing to achieve personal development goals that support the fund's our key priorities with a donation of up to £100. The Community Fund will support any voluntary organisation, school or charity

working within Foundations key priorities of numeracy and/or financial literacy, that operate within a local community where the Building Society has a high density of members. 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)

### Harborne Parish Lands Charity Grant Making

Applications are welcomed from organisations within the area of benefit and are considered by the Trustees twice yearly. For more information and to obtain an application form contact the Grants Administrator on 0121 426 1600 or email [julie.boardman@hplc.fednet.org.uk](mailto:julie.boardman@hplc.fednet.org.uk) Harborne Parish Lands Charity, 109 Court Oak Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 9AA Telephone: 0121 426 1600 Fax: 0121 428 2267

### Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust

The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust which awards grants to charitable organisations in the United Kingdom and overseas has announced that due to the current economic climate and the increase in the number of applications they have been receiving, the decision has been made to make no further grants to overseas projects after 2012. During 2012, the Trust is seeking to fund projects that work with:

- The Homeless
- Addiction
- Asylum and Refugees
- Tackle Sexual and Domestic

## Funding and Sustainability

Abuse

- Support Prisoners and ex-Offenders
- Medical projects.

Grants are usually between £1,000 and £3,000. There are two closing dates for applications in 2012. These are the 1st June and 1st November 2012. <http://www.austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk/>

### Percy Bilton Charity

The Charity will support organisations working with disadvantaged or underprivileged young people (up to 25), people with disabilities (physical or learning) or mental health problems or older people (over 60) Up to £500 for equipment/furnishings and over £2,000 "one off payments" for capital expenditure such as furniture and equipment or building projects. Only registered charities can apply for large grants and they do not provide funding for running costs. Most large grants below £5,000 (average £3,000) Telephone 020 8579 2829 [www.percybiltoncharity.org.uk/](http://www.percybiltoncharity.org.uk/)

### Football Foundation Opens its Grow the Game Funding Programme

The Football Foundation has announced that it is accepting applications for funding through its "Grow the Game" programme. Through the programme, funding of up to £5,000 is available for projects that increase participation by both players and volunteers within the game. Applications are welcome from organisations that are 'not for profit' and planning to set up two new football teams over the next two

years. To be eligible for funding organisations must have a signed constitution (with a dissolution clause), child protection policy, equal opportunities policy, bank statement and income/expenditure records. The type of activities that can be funded include (but are not limited to):

- Facility hire
- Hire of FA qualified coaches
- Referees fees
- CRB checks
- Affiliation fees
- Promotion and publicity; etc

The closing date for applications is the 6th March 2012. <http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/apply/grow-the-game/>

### Comic Relief Grants

Comic Relief has announced that its UK grants programme is due to re-open for applications on the 29th June 2012. Through its UK grants programme voluntary and community based organizations can apply for grants through a number of different funding schemes. These include: Mental health; Domestic and sexual abuse;

- Refugee and asylum seeking women
- Sport for Change
- Young People aged 11 – 25 that are sexually exploited
- Suffer from alcohol abuse
- Suffer from mental health problems

Comic relief will also re-open for applications on the 10th April 2012 under its older people and sport for change programmes. Comic Relief provides both capital and revenue and can pay for up to 100% of projects costs but they encourage applicants to get some of their funding from other

sources. On average grants of between £25,000 and £40,000 are available. In addition, Comic Relief operates a programme that support disadvantaged communities. This programme is devolved to the Community Foundation Network. Please contact your local Community Foundation directly for details of their funding application procedures. This will be the last funding cycle under their current grants strategy. The new strategy will launch in spring 2013 with grant making resuming in summer 2013 <http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/apply-for-a-uk-grant>

### J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust

Areas of interest are reducing reoffending, improving prospects for young people (aged 14-19), repairing lives/communities, preserving heritage and sustaining the arts. Applications to be made on-line, there are 3 stages, can take up to 9 months to get a decision. Small grants usually processed much quicker. Telephone 020 7486 1859. [www.jpgettytrust.org.uk/index.html](http://www.jpgettytrust.org.uk/index.html)

**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 April/May 2012 issue is Friday 23 March 2012.

## Expansion to Buddies Programme

Continued from front page

This new programme will build on and enhance SCVO's capacity building work that they undertake through their core work with the community and voluntary sector. It is envisaged that the programme will leave an important legacy of increased volunteering in Sandwell and the Black Country. It will also support the sector to be more effective at demonstrating the crucial work that it undertakes.

Chief Executive Mark Davis said: "I am pleased to be able to build on our previous projects and I am particularly proud that SCVO is one of only 16 organisations to have successfully bid for The Social Action Fund which brings over £147,000 of new funding into Sandwell. SCVO are grateful for support from their sister organisation Lifework and from

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council".

**Quotes following previous buddying programmes:**

- "there are fresh and feasible ways to tackle the challenges"
- "has gained considerably from the programme, principally in strategic thinking"
- "skills and confidence grew"

#### How to sign up

If you are interested in being a volunteer buddy, a voluntary sector organisation that would like to host a buddy, to support a piece of work in one of these areas: marketing/media, business, funding or finance or you would like any further information about the project please contact Saffi Price. Email [buddies@scvo.info](mailto:buddies@scvo.info) or phone 0121 525 1127



**Volunteer Centre**  
Sandwell

