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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.

George Gives it Back!

The recent Budget didn't give the voluntary sector much to cheer about – the capping of tax relief on charitable donations was seen as a major blow to voluntary sector funding. But a coalition of charities, led by National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and other voluntary sector organisations, including National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), has fought back – and won!

When the Chancellor, George Osborne, delivered his latest Budget back in April, one of the main headlines was the capping of Gift Aid on charitable donations, billed as a crackdown on "tax avoidance". Quite apart from the fact that mentioning charitable giving and tax avoidance in the same sentence created quite a damaging impression, charity leaders argued that it would severely impact on the 7% of donors who give nearly half of the total amount donated to charity.

This might not seem a problem for Sandwell – we're not exactly flush with rich donors in our part of the West Midlands. However, it's worth remembering that many of the charitable trusts we rely on for funding, rely in turn on major donations to keep going. As campaigners put it: "today's gifts are tomorrow's grants".



So we were very happy to hear, as this newsletter went to press, that the Treasury had decided to give in to pressure from charities and the public and shelve the idea of what people had already begun to call "the charity tax". Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive of NCVO, called it "a victory for common sense", showing that the Government had listened to the strength of feeling expressed by a range of organisations (including SCVO) through the "Give it Back, George!" campaign. Philanthropy is often talked about as one of the pillars of "the Big Society" - to tax it out of existence, at a time of cuts in funding, would have been madness.

This shows the power of our sector when we act together, and should inspire us to keep fighting for the people and communities we serve. The Government makes all the right noises about the value of our sector, and we need to keep them to their word, and expose instances where their policies don't support us and our continued work.

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SCVO Update

SCVO's Future Communication With You – Your Views Are Needed

SCVO receive lots of positive feedback about our communications with the Voluntary and Community Sector, however we think that the time has come to review the way we do this in the future.

We would be grateful if you would complete the survey inserted in this edition of SCVO.INFO and let us know how we can improve the information and format of our communications with you, at the same time as ensuring a cost effective service.

Please complete the survey and return it to the Freepost address



by Friday 29 June 2012.

It can also be completed online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/scvo1234

Development Needs Survey

Thank you to all those organisations who have already replied to our SCVO development need survey online.

In order to ensure that our new training programme and any new services SCVO may consider developing meet your needs we are going to continue to collect responses through our development staff as they meet up with you whilst out and about across Sandwell. For the next two weeks we will be giving out paper copies of the survey and asking you to complete them straight away or send them back to us in the post. We welcome your input; thank you for getting involved.



For further information please phone us on 0121 525 1127.

SCVO Update

Help Name the Consortium

Sandwell Health and Social Care Consortium (current working title) needs a name that reflects its intention to deliver health and social care services across Sandwell and surrounding areas.

The Consortium's shared vision is to adopt a 'think local' approach across a broad spectrum of health and social care services and work together to provide a range of services which aim to enhance quality of life in Sandwell for all.

The Consortium hopes to achieve this by bidding for contracts and funds to deliver health and social care services in Sandwell and

throughout the Black Country. If you can think of a name that you feel encompasses what the Consortium would like to achieve then please send your suggestions by email to martind@scvo.info If the Consortium adopts your name, the Working Group will provide a suitable prize as a gesture of good will.

Expression of interest deadline extended

All health and social care organisations who attended SCVO workshops and meetings about exploring collaborative working in health and social care should have received an automatic invitation to

complete an Expression of Interest. Forms are available to download on SCVO website, www.scvo.info/2012/05/18/express-interest-in-winning-health-and-social-care-contracts-collaboratively/

All Expression of Interest forms need to be completed by 4.00pm on 29 June 2012. If you are delivering health & social care services or would like to move into this area of delivery as part of a collaborative project, please contact Martin Drayton, Collaborative Projects Officer, tel: 0121 525 1127 or email: martind@scvo.info

New Support Offer for West Bromwich and Charlemont

West Bromwich Central and Charlemont wards are being alerted to a Lottery funded project providing advice, guidance and support to community groups.

Funded by the Big Lottery Fund, SCVO's Community Support Programme got underway in February 2010. The aim of this 4 year initiative is to provide focused and committed development support for small voluntary and community sector groups working at neighbourhood level in Sandwell. Five areas in total will be selected and will each receive dedicated support over 12 months. Support has already been provided in Rowley, Wednesbury



and Smethwick.

The programme has now been rolled out to groups who are based and active in West Bromwich

Central and Charlemont wards. The type and range of support includes writing constitutions or a set of rules, options for organisational structure, charity registration, forming an effective committee, writing policies and procedures, identifying funding, support with writing funding bids, engaging in partnerships and networks plus much more.

If you are a group or know of a group that could benefit from this support please contact Helen Trueman at SCVO on 0121 525 1127 or email helen@scvo.info

Voluntary Sector Foresight

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.

Part of SCVO's role is to scan the horizon to make sure we keep you abreast of the changes coming up in the local and national policy context. In the first of this series, Strategic Engagement Manager Nick Drew writes about the changes we can expect within the Council in the next few months.

Over the last few months (years?) it's felt like "another week, another Council reorganisation", and if it's any comfort I get the sense that Council staff are just as weary of it as we are. But news reached me just as this newsletter went to press of major changes at the top of the Council which could have a big effect on the way in which we engage with the Council.

At the Council's AGM, some considerable changes were proposed to the Cabinet members' portfolios and the way in which the Council's Scrutiny function works. Alongside the existing Leader and Deputy Leader, the non-statutory Deputy Leader for Service Improvement now has specific responsibility for the Sandwell Scorecard and the inspection, improvement and development of the Council's services. It remains to be seen if this will also include inspection of contracted services, including ones run by the VCS on behalf of the Council.

Also, alongside the statutory responsibilities of the Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and for Adults, there will be a new Cabinet portfolio holder on Health and Commissioning. This is clearly in response to the changes in the way the health system will work in Sandwell,

with health commissioning going over to GPs and public health responsibilities being absorbed back into the Council. The Cabinet Member will have oversight of public health and the Health and Well Being Board, and of all health commissioning. It will be vital to engage with the holder of this portfolio as early as possible, and SCVO will move quickly to ensure that we engage fully with them to help shape their priorities for this massively important agenda.

Alongside this, Scrutiny is due for a major shake-up. The overall Scrutiny Management Board (at which voluntary sector partners were able to campaign successfully for a review of commissioning processes) is to be scrapped, and replaced with three thematic Boards: Social Care and Lifestyles; Neighbourhood and Community; and Policy and Performance. The voluntary sector could well cross-cut all of these, so we will need to develop relationships with all three. Another new development is that there will be six Town Scrutiny Committees, focussing on the towns of Sandwell.

As these new arrangements develop, we'll keep you posted on our work with these Cabinet Members on your behalf. Equally, if there are matters you would like us to raise with the new Cabinet or with Scrutiny, please contact me: nick@scvo.info / 0121 525 1127

Strategic Engagement Update

Spotlight on Commissioning

SCVO held its first joint event with Sandwell Council as part of our programme of development work with organisations who want to be part of commissioning. The "Commissioning in Focus" event, the first in a series of four, concentrated on the opportunities for the voluntary sector in the forthcoming outsourcing of the Council's adult social care brokerage function – the service which devises care plans for individuals who receive a personal budget to fund their social care. A small but select audience benefited from in-depth discussions with key commissioners from the Council, which both sides found interesting and productive. We would be very keen to see more people at future events – our next Commissioning in Focus event in July on advice commissioning will be followed up by a major "Meet the Commissioners" event in September, which will be the sector's chance to talk to key commissioners about their service priorities.

For more information on either of these events, please contact Leona Bird, email: Leona@scvo or tel: 0121 525 1127.

Universally Challenged?

The Department for Communities and Local Government has finally published its guidance (available at <http://bit.ly/right2challenge>) on the "Community Right to



Challenge" provision in the Localism Act.

This provision should put voluntary organisations in a position to force public bodies to put services and assets that are being poorly run up for tender. However, the way the guidance is worded suggests that private companies may be able to induce voluntary organisations to submit challenges on their behalf, to open the way for them to bid, or even to set up "dummy" charities themselves to initiate the process. Eric Pickles has threatened new legislation to close this loophole, but given that nothing was

included in the Queen's Speech, nothing much can happen any time soon.

The Kids Are Alright

SCVO's newly-reformed Children and Young People's Forum met for the first full meeting in its new guise at the end of April. It attracted 25 delegates from a wide range of organisations working with children and young people from all across Sandwell.

Jon Grant of Krunch was elected Chair, and Andrew Moore of CRUSE Bereavement Care was elected Vice-Chair. The discussion began with Nicola Plant outlining SMBC's overall vision for children and young people's services, and then focussed in on the new approach by Sandwell Council to gang and youth violence.

The next meeting will be held at Wood Lane Community Centre on 21 June 2012 at 10am. Please contact Leona Bird, email: Leona@scvo.info or tel: 0121 525 1127 if you would like to attend.



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.

Big Society Capital: A Capital Idea?

On 4th April, the Government's long-promised investment vehicle for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, "Big Society Capital", finally launched. Its initial investment fund of £600m is made up of money reclaimed from dormant bank accounts and contributions from four high street banks. But what impact will the money have, and will it make a difference in Sandwell?

First of all, it's important to note – most people won't be able to apply directly to Big Society Capital (BSC) for funding. BSC will invest its money in "social investment funding intermediaries" (SIFIs) which in turn will provide finance and support to voluntary and community sector organisations. BSC will expect to see a financial and social return on any money it invests through its SIFIs – it does not make grants.

It has already invested in a number of initial smaller-scale schemes, for example a youth unemployment initiative run by Triodos Bank, and community energy generation scheme match-funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Trust. The Chief Executive of BSC has said he expects 10-12 investments to be made in this first year, worth £50m.

It may well be possible for Sandwell-based organisations to benefit from BSC finance – however, it is still unclear what thematic areas the SIFIs will target, what level of interest they will need to charge on the loans they make, and what conditions they will put on the social return. SCVO's umbrella body National Associations of Voluntary and Community Associations has expressed concern that the loan conditions may make finance inaccessible to smaller organisations.



June Charities Update

Strategy on Safeguarding Issues

The Charity Commission has published its 'Strategy for Dealing with Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Issues in Charities'. This sets out its own role, but also charity trustees' safeguarding responsibilities and outlines steps to take to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm, with links to further (existing) advice on its website. See www.charitycommission.gov.uk

Revised Guide on Portable Electrical Appliance Testing

The Health and Safety Executive has revised guidance on portable appliance testing, 'Maintaining portable electrical equipment in low-risk environments' (IND236). HSE is urging organisations not to waste "their money on unnecessary checks that have no real benefit". Download, or order, via www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg236.htm Please also see the HSE's 'Answers to your most frequently asked health and safety questions on portable appliance testing'" at www.hse.gov.uk/electricity/faq-portable-appliance-testing.htm

Support for Small Charities in Queen's Speech

The Queen's speech on 9 May, included a Small Donations bill. This bill will allow charities to

claim top-up payments similar to Gift Aid on small donations totalling up to £5,000 a year without individual paperwork. It will put in place support for small charities that was first announced in the Budget in March 2011. Neil Cleeveley, Director of Policy and Communications, said: "National Association for Voluntary and Community Action is delighted to see the Small Donations Bill in the Government's legislative plans. This measure to get top-up payments similar to Gift Aid for small cash donations could make a significant difference to thousands of local charities." "This looks like a measure that could help the Government achieve its aim of making running a charity easier. We look forward to seeing more details but it is a nice reminder that the majority of charities are small and that a huge difference can be made with relatively small amounts of money."

Volunteers can have Single 'Portable' Criminal Records Check Under New Law

Cabinet Office says the change will decrease the number of people requiring an enhanced check. Volunteers will be able to have "portable" criminal records bureau checks, under a new law passed in May 2012. The Cabinet Office said that new measures introduced in the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, which gained royal assent earlier this month,

will mean that volunteers can have a single check allowing them to work for multiple organisations. The changes will mean that the Criminal Records Bureau will introduce a service to enable employers, including organisations using volunteers, to check whether new information has been recorded by the police since a certificate was issued. Checks to establish whether people are barred from certain roles working with vulnerable people will only apply to people in very close contact with children or vulnerable adults. The change will reduce the number of people requiring an enhanced check because they regularly work in services for vulnerable people from 9.3m to 5m, according to a Cabinet Office progress report on recommendations made a year ago in Unshackling Good Neighbours, published this month. The Cabinet Office has today published a code of good practice for volunteers written by a working group including representatives of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, various insurance organisations and Volunteering England.

Five Steps of Taking on a First Employee

An official Business Link online toolkit for first-time employers may well be of use to voluntary organisations just moving to engage their first staff member(s). The five steps give some basic information and links for more. See www.businesslink.gov.uk/employ

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.

Public Sector News

Opportunities For Working With The Fire Service

At the West Midlands Fire Service we are committed to 'making people safer', and recognise that we need to find more efficient ways of identifying the most vulnerable of our communities to engage with in order to do this.

We have recently redesigned our Home Safety Check Referral form to reflect just that, and to assist our crews and the partners we work with to establish who we as a Brigade deem the most vulnerable and in need of Home Safety Information and intervention, according to historical data. Some of you who read this article may be able to assist, in that you might already be in contact with some of our vulnerable residents.

We would like to meet with you, to discuss ways that we can ensure our residents are kept safe from the risk of fire. There are many ways we can do this, but of course it starts with the simple task of ensuring a smoke alarm is fitted free in their homes. We have a dedicated team of officers, trained to address more specific needs an individual might have, ranging from fitting a hearing impaired alarm, to being able to call on our Partners to carry out any other adaptations, to ensure the home is at minimal risk, and

that there are plans in place for escape, should a fire occur.

We would like to meet with you if you feel you could help refer groups of more vulnerable people to us, or indeed if you would simply like to refer individuals to us, so that we can ultimately work together to make them safer.

We have some specific criteria which helps focus our attention on those specific groups who for us have been identified as most vulnerable, such as those in our community with learning disabilities, mental health difficulties, visual, mobility and sensory impairment, the elderly, those who would find it difficult to escape quickly in the event of a fire, smokers who have already had a fire, and those with a tendency to hoard belongings, occupiers with drug and alcohol dependencies, those receiving palliative care, and those receiving one or more benefits.

If you feel you would be able to assist us in identifying those members of Sandwell, please get in touch with Andrea Crew, Local Area Liaison Officer on 07973 231174 or e-mail andrea.crew@wmfs.net

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE

Sandwell VCS Feature



Spotlight on ...

Staffordshire Bull Terrier Heritage Centre

This month The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Heritage Centre are the spotlight. 'SCVO INFO' talks to Keith Jackson (Treasurer and Founder Member) and Marie Stokes (Secretary) from the group

1. Tell us what you do.

The groups aim is to show the heritage of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier as they have strong links with the Black Country as they were the 'working man's dog'. The group also aims to promote positive attitudes towards these dogs and to help to break down some of the stereotypes and bad press that they get

2. What is your proudest achievement?

The group formed in 2000 and gained charitable status in 2005. It has developed and evolved through collecting memorabilia and raising money through donations. The proudest achievement was the day that the Heritage Centre opened at The Old Post Office in Wednesbury in 2009. During the first year of opening over 1,000 came through the doors to learn more.

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

People are willing to listen and take the time to learn new things. It is possible to change attitudes to the Staffordshire Bull Terrier and people do leave the Centre with a different perspective.

4. What are the plans for the future?

The group would like to have their own premises that is in a more public area and easier to access. We would also like to work with the Police and with youth groups to help to educate young people about these dogs in the hope that this awareness will prevent Staffordshire Bull Terriers being seen as something of a status symbol. We will also be attending Roadshows and taking our exhibition out to Companion Shows.

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

Funding is always an issue in helping groups to carry on doing what they do. Not knowing the right links to make and who to talk to about future plans is also a challenge. Small voluntary led organisations like ours lack the resources and time to fill in funding applications and also lack the skills to do this effectively. Smaller organisations



also struggle to find passionate volunteers to help to support the work they do.

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

Helping organisations to keep in touch with each other, through networking and other means so that organisations can support each other. Some help with doing the leg work for finding funding and help with funding applications. It is also important that SCVO helps to promote the work that smaller organisations are doing in the community to make sure that their valuable work isn't lost and more people know about them.

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Heritage Centre is open on a Saturday from 11.00am – 3.00pm at The Old Post Office (rear entrance), Albert Street, Wednesbury, WS10 7DF. The group would be more than willing to come out and give talks to other organisations. For further information please contact Keith Jackson on 07714105325. You can find out more by visiting the group's website: www.thestaffordshirebullterrier.co.uk or join their Forum: www.staffordshirebullterrierforum.co.uk

WANT TO BE PART OF THE BUDDIES PROGRAMME?

This programme is an exciting initiative which aims to build the capacity of the voluntary and community sector in the Black Country by matching specific community groups, charities and voluntary organisations with experienced professionals and community workers.

- The four areas covered by the programme include Funding, Finance, Business and Marketing.
- Organisations will have access to a dedicated buddy for approximately 8 hours per month over three to four months.
- Buddies can come from anywhere in the West Midlands but participating organisations must be based or operational within the Black Country.
- Buddies can be anyone with skills or knowledge in one or more of the four buddy strands. They can be from the world of business, industry, the public sector, and the voluntary and community sector; we also welcome graduates and postgraduates looking to exploit their skills and build their work experience.

For more information visit the Buddies website: www.buddiesuk.org
Registration: Carolyn Pratt on 0121 525 1127 ext 220 or email carolyn@scvo.info
Enquiries: Tippa Naphtali on 0121 525 1127 ext 216 or email tippa@scvo.info

Funded by The Social Action Fund and run in partnership with local charity support agencies across the Black Country.

Health for Living Consortium Launch

An innovative new consortium has been launched to improve the health and well-being of thousands of people in Sandwell.

Called Health for Living, the consortium has been set up by the Accord Group, Black Country Housing Group, Murray Hall Community Trust and Sandwell Mind.

Using their combined experience in care and support, the company is working together to provide a range of tailored health and well-being services to people in Sandwell.

It has already secured a £1.2 million contract from Sandwell PCT to roll out a Confidence and Well-being service for people with long-term illnesses.

The service includes health

improvement programmes, help and support to assist people to manage their own conditions, stress and relaxation workshops and food and mood activities.

Chris Handy OBE, Chief Executive of the Accord Group, said: "Not only do we have the knowledge and experience in healthcare that is vital for running this service but we're also able to reach out to some of the vulnerable and isolated in our communities."

Health for Living's Confidence and Well-being Team is based at the Well-being Centre in Smethwick and operates on a self-referral and GP referral basis. It is open to people living or working in Sandwell or those registered with a Sandwell GP.

For more information about this service, call 0121 558 4352.



Celebrate London 2012 in Sandwell

The eyes of the world will be on Great Britain this summer with the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Olympic Flame – the symbol of the greatest show on earth – is coming to Sandwell on Saturday 30 June.

The flame will pass through Oldbury, West Bromwich and Smethwick on its way to Birmingham. It will be in the Borough between around 5.50pm and 7pm - and people can join celebrations along the route. You can find out more information and view the street level route at: www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelay
www.sandwell.gov.uk/london2012
www.sandwellfor2012.co.uk

Three free public events are being held on the afternoon of 30 June that give an opportunity for people to celebrate.

- Victoria Park, Smethwick – come along to an extravaganza of sport, music, dance and community celebration being organised jointly by Raaj FM, Sandwell Council and many local organisations.
- Oldbury Civic Square, to coincide with activities to mark Armed Forces Day.
- The new Sandwell College building, West Bromwich, which is holding an open day.

For more information visit www.sandwellfor2012.co.uk

The Olympic Flame is being carried by 8,000 inspirational torchbearers on its 70-day journey around the UK to the Olympic Stadium in London. Sandwell will have a dozen residents chosen to carry the Flame across the UK this



Pictured above Jessica Gripton

summer. You can find out more on Sandwell's torchbearers at www.sandwell.gov.uk/torchbearers

Keeping you informed

As the Olympic Torch Relay approaches and final arrangements are made, we will be putting information on road closures, public transport and other advice on www.sandwellfor2012.co.uk and www.sandwell.gov.uk/london2012

Facebook and Twitter

You can share your Olympic and Paralympic themed news and get involved on a Facebook page www.facebook.com/sandwellcouncil or via Twitter www.twitter.com/sandwellcouncil

Get involved in London 2012

100 ways to get involved - the West Midlands for 2012 team have a list of 100 different things you can do, right here in the West Midlands, to play your part – www.wmfor2012.com/100ways

Community Games – any schools, groups and sports groups holding Olympic-themed sports days or events to coincide with the Olympics should register the event

at www.communitygames.org.uk
Dressing your community - community groups can get together to make bunting or decorations to welcome the Flame.

Become a Local Leader

celebrate the Olympic Torch Relay and other key moments during the Olympic and Paralympic Games by signing up to be a Local Leader. You can receive information on themed celebration ideas and free London 2012 event materials. Visit www.london2012.com/localleaders

The Games and Me - find out about people in the West Midlands who have been inspired by the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games, and share your own stories, photos and videos to inspire others. Visit The Games and Me website at www.wmfor2012.com/thegamesandme

Join In is a golden opportunity for every sports club to turn the excitement around the Games into new supporters and members - not just this summer but for years to come. Visit the Join In website at www.joininuk.org

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

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.

Funding Extra

BUDS Awarded Lottery Funding

Better Understanding of Dementia for Sandwell (BUDS) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded National Lottery funding under the Reaching Communities programme.

We have been granted a total of £207, 663 over 5 years. This is great news both for BUDS and for the borough of Sandwell for lottery funding to be awarded to a local charity providing services at grass roots level. BUDS has already become well established in Sandwell since it began in 2009, but lottery funding will mean increased sustainability over the next 5 years, which is so important to us as it is to many other local charities, but can often be difficult to achieve particularly within the current economic climate.

At present BUDS provides a befriending service for people with dementia in their own homes in order to provide companionship and offer families short breaks, weekly clubs for people with dementia to socialise and take part in activities, and groups and one-to-one support and information for family carers. Lottery funding will mean we can develop these services to reach more people in all of the six towns of Sandwell more effectively. We also plan to expand the dementia training and awareness programme for those who work on a professional basis with people with dementia, as there is still a need for this within the workforce.



BUDS would like to thank SCVO for their support in writing the lottery bid. Also a big thank you to BUDS clients, their family carers, our volunteers, and to the local community organisations and forums, who all took part in the evaluation of our services as part of the lottery bid. Their help has played a vital role in providing evidence of the continued need for our services, and for this we are very grateful.

If you would like to contact BUDS please telephone 0121 565 3721, email info@buds.co.uk, or log onto our website www.buds.co.uk

Jamie Crew
BUDS Development Manager



Resources

A Strategic Approach to Marketing can Help the Sector to Raise Funds

The 2012 Charity REaD Report reveals current consumer attitudes to the marketing activities of Third Sector organisations in the UK. The report pinpoints key insights to help charities make efficient use of their marketing resources.

For organisations in the UK lucky enough to emerge from the downturn relatively unscathed the landscape is forever changed and many are facing a host of new challenges when it comes to marketing their products and services to consumers in the post recession economy.

With corporate restructuring and job losses across the UK, consumer spending is not surprisingly at an all time low and even the least thrifty are scrutinising everything they spend. As an upshot, many consumers are taking a fresh approach to selecting the commercial and charitable organisations with whom they wish to do business.

While recent reports from the World Giving Index suggests that the British are giving more time and money to charities despite the economic slowdown, many UK charities have experienced a significant drop in local authority funding while others have seen it completely withdrawn. So what can be done internally to redress the balance?

In recent years, charities have managed to shake off some



of the negative attention they have received in respect of them being negligent direct mailers by adhering to best practice guidelines and adopting better database management techniques, which has helped them to see a return on their investment and improve consumer relations. However, the results of the 2012 Charity REaD Report suggest that charities have a way to go when it comes to reducing their costs and improving their fundraising potential.

A recent case study by Macmillan Cancer Support indicates that the charity has made £80,000 of savings by employing a well thought out strategy that hinges upon first class database management techniques. This has made their direct marketing more effective and, as they are not sending stuff to people who don't exist, means their data processing is effectively cost neutral. The environmental impact of their Direct Marketing campaigns is

negligible and they have increased their fundraising income by being more targeted and reconnecting with lost supporters. Better targeting and a reduction in the amount of unsolicited DM certainly struck a chord with respondents in this Report. This suggests a growing need for charities to develop more streamlined database marketing systems that will help them to not only deliver campaigns that consumers want to see, but that will encourage them to engage more meaningfully rather than alienating supporters.

The report aims to help charities and other not for profit organisations by furnishing them with consumer attitudes research on the sector that could make all the difference to their beneficiaries and to their continued success.

To read the full report go to www.readgroupplc.com

June Funding Digest

McDonald's KickStart Grants

McDonalds has announced the launch of a new grant scheme to support community football throughout the UK. A total of £75,000 is available in 2012 through the McDonalds Kick Start scheme and local community football teams can apply for grants of between £500 and £2,500 for activities such as:

- Improving club facilities
- Grounds-keeping tools
- Training courses
- Pitch hire; van hire
- Washing machines for kit; etc.

Individuals can apply for a grant on behalf of their club, as long as they are recognised by their national FA, and have at least one team at or below junior (U18) level. Applicants must be over 18 and involved with the club at some level, such as a coach, volunteer or parent.

There are three application rounds during 2012 and the next deadline for applications is the 30th June 2012. Visit: www.mcdonalds.co.uk/ukhome/Sport/Football/Investment/small-grant.html

Wellcome Trust - Peoples Awards

Awards of up to £30,000 are available under the Wellcome Trust's Peoples Awards for projects that encourage public debate and understanding of biomedical science. Projects can include:

- Workshops and seminars
- Arts projects for a variety of different audiences and age groups
- Teaching materials or

techniques to encourage wider discussions

- Projects that utilise the collections of the Wellcome Library and the Wellcome Collection at the Science Museum.

Funding can be for up to three years. Applications can be made by a wide variety of individuals, organisations and partnerships.

The next applications deadline is the 27th July 2012.

Visit: www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Public-engagement/Funding-schemes/People-and-Society-Awards/index.htm

Health Innovation Projects

The Health Foundation has announced that the 2012 round of the Shine Challenge is now open for applications.

Through the Shine Challenge, awards of up to £75,000 per project are available to improve healthcare. The challenge is open to healthcare teams based in any of the four countries of the UK, as well as private and voluntary sector organisations. This year, the challenge is trying to find new approaches to supporting patients to be active partners in their own care; improving patient safety; and improving quality while reducing costs. The Foundation will select up to 18 projects and invest up to £75,000 in each successful project.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on the 17th July 2012. Visit: www.health.org.uk/areas-of-work/programmes/shine-twelve/

GREAT BRIDGE COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS

Grants of £500 to £1,000 are available to small voluntary and community groups based or working in Great Bridge.

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) has matched a Community Chest which was launched earlier this year, enabling SCVO to release another £8,500 in the form of grants to small community groups in the Great Bridge Ward.

Eligible groups must have a signed governing document and a bank account and be able to spend the grant before the end of August

Priority will be given to groups working with families and young people and those that have not received a Community Chest grant this year.

For an application form or more information please contact Carole Harte, SCVO on 0121 525 or email: carole@scvo.info

Sportivate Funding

The Black Country BeActive Partnership is pleased to announce the opening of Round 3 of Sportivate funding to run sports coaching projects for 14-25 year olds across the Black Country. The Funding is available for projects that will run for 6-8 weeks and must be delivered between October 2012 and March 2013. The BeActive Partnership is particularly interested in receiving applications for projects that are targeting the following: Women and girls; Young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS); BME Communities; People with disabilities; 18-25 year olds; Young people in areas of deprivation; Young people in areas of low participation in sport; Young people in areas with a high density of young people. They would particularly welcome projects from

- National Governing Bodies of Sport
- Sports Clubs
- Youth Groups
- Voluntary/Community organisations
- Workplaces who employ a high level of young people (up to the age of 25 years)
- Organisations working with young people at risk of offending

Round 3 will close at 5 p.m. on the 25th of June 2012.

Further information please contact Samantha Chilton on 01384 471142 or visit: the-blackcountry.com

Domestic Programme Fund

The Government's Forced

Marriages Unit has announced that it is seeking applications through its Domestic Programme Fund (DPF). The DPF provides funding to charities for small projects in the UK that protect victims of and end forced marriages. Applicants need to be registered or a small charity. In order to foster a more joined-up approach to protecting victims and ending forced marriages partnerships with other NGOs or statutory bodies are also strongly encouraged. A total of £150,000 is available and it is anticipated that around 8 projects will be funded.

The closing date for applications is the 31st May 2012. Visit: www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage/domestic-program-fund/

Cemex Community Fund

The CEMEX Community Fund is a grant-giving fund established by CEMEX under the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. Its aim is to support sustainable local community and environmental projects within 3 miles of a CEMEX operations. Each year Cemex makes available grants of between £1,000 and £15,000 to support a small number of projects in England, Scotland and Wales. Support is available for projects which provide and maintain public parks and amenities when the work protects the social built and/or natural environment and repair, or restore buildings or structures which are of religious, historical or architectural interest. Organisations wishing to apply need to be enrolled as an

Environmental Body with Entrust, the Regulator of the Landfill Community Fund.

The deadline for applications is the 10th September 2012 for Stage 1 Expression of Interest forms. Visit: www.cemexcf.org.uk/

Children's Outdoor Recreational Activities

The Outdoor clothing company "North Face" has announced the launch of a new funding round of its Explore Fund. The Explore Fund supports not for profit organisations that encourage youth outdoor participation. Grants of up to €2,500 are available for projects that encourage community involvement; focus on breaking down barriers to getting youth outdoors; and projects that reach out to a specific community or place of interest. Only one Explore Fund financial support package will be given to an organisation in each calendar year and applications that can provide match funding will be viewed favourably.

The closing date for applications is the 2nd July 2012. Visit: www.explorefund.eu/index.php

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 (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 August/September 2012 issue is Friday 20 July 2012.

Events

SCVO's AGM and Conference – "A Recipe for Success – How the Voluntary Sector Can Drive the Sandwell Economy"

1 November 2012, 9.30am – 2.00pm

Sandwell Council Chamber, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3DB

George Bernard Shaw said: "If all economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a conclusion." So how can we develop our understanding of the local economy, and our place in it? SCVO's AGM this year asks precisely that question, and with invited speakers including Tony Deep Wouhra from leading Black Country brand East End Foods, it will be a thought-provoking event, not to be missed.

So make it a date in your diary!. Further details will be available soon.

Does the Future Look Healthy for Sandwell and West Birmingham?

As you may know, the way in which health services are provided in Sandwell is changing. At the moment, almost all non-hospital services are bought on behalf of residents by Sandwell Primary Care Trust. But, from April 2013, this responsibility will move over to GPs, who are banding together as the Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group. In June, we'll be running an event to introduce these new commissioners to the VCS.

As the name suggests, this new body will cover the whole of Sandwell as well as a large swathe of the western side of Birmingham. It will cover over half-a-million patients with a budget of £750m, so it will clearly have major buying power and it is important for VCS organisations who provide health and care services to get involved in shaping its policies.

Working together with the regional body RAWM and our Birmingham counterparts at BVSC, SCVO is working to organise a major event to create links between the CCG and voluntary sector organisations. GPs, much like the general population, do not generally have a clear idea of what the voluntary sector provides, so it's a fantastic opportunity to meet the people who will be making major care decisions and show them the breadth and expertise of the sector.

The event will take place on 25th June – go to the dedicated Eventbrite page for more information and to book a place: www.swbccg.eventbrite.co.uk

If you have any questions about the event or about the development of the health agenda in Sandwell, contact Nick Drew, Strategic Engagement Manager: nick@scvo.info / 0121 525 1127