



NEWS

CVS Developments

Changes are taking place at K&D Voice and the CVS arm of Gordon Rural Action (Councils for Voluntary Services for south and central Aberdeenshire respectively).

Later in 2009 K&D Voice is to merge the CVS for Central Aberdeenshire (currently part of Gordon Rural Action) into its operations in the South of the Shire. This was agreed in principle back in November and December 2008 at the Annual General meetings of K&D Voice and of Gordon Rural Action (GRA), who are for now still responsible for this service in Central Aberdeenshire.

Moves to implement this merger are already underway: Alan Young has been Chief Officer of both services for several months now, and CVS staff from the two organisations are already working together in practice across the combined area as part of a single, strong and effective team. All this constitutes a positive first step towards the goals set by the Scottish Government to providing a stronger, more coherent and effective service to the voluntary and community sector across Aberdeenshire.

Some time later in the year we will see a change of name, as the two CVSs are formally merged into a single new identity. There may also be one or two new faces in different roles across the two areas as services develop.

As you may have seen from the newsletter sent out in January, we are already incorporating the two areas into our material and information will be sent to both south and central areas every 2 months as usual. All information will remain relevant to the Aberdeenshire voluntary community, and daily or weekly e-mail shots will be replaced by e-bulletins and newsletters alternating on a monthly basis. Any urgent information will be sent out separately as usual.

It is important to mention that both CVS's will still be providing the same services as they always have done and offices and contact details remain the same for now. As the merger progresses, we keep everyone up-to-date with any changes as they occur.

Take the First Step - No Smoking Day 2009

No Smoking Day is the UK's leading health campaign for smokers who want to stop. This website has all the information and resources you need to quit smoking, or to organise your own event on No Smoking Day: Wednesday 11 March 2009.

http://www.nosmokingday.org.uk/?dm_i=2V4,DVU,5CH18,LUH,1

Poverty Framework Launched

Earlier this year, the Scottish Government has launched a new framework to tackle poverty and income inequality in Scotland. The framework - Achieving our Potential - sets out the joint approach of the Government and COSLA and is supported by funding of £7.5 million. Key actions in the framework include strengthening income maximisation work, launching a campaign to raise awareness of workers' statutory rights and supporting people who find it hardest to get into jobs or use public services.

See <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/11/20103815/0>

NEWS

Progress Scotland

Progress Scotland is an initiative from ARC Scotland. It began in July 2008 and aims to ensure that people with learning difficulties are fully involved in decisions about the services they receive and how their communities are run. In Aberdeenshire they are currently developing partnerships with people with learning difficulties, advocacy organisations, voluntary and statutory bodies to assist change and progress towards full and inclusive citizenship for all.

Progress Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government and the Big Lottery Fund and also works in the Borders and Dumfries & Galloway.

Comments from people with learning difficulties have been:

"People always just do what they think is good for us. That's no good. You have to tell them what you want. It is no good leaving some people out".

"Other people always say what's going to be done. I want my say- I live here too."

"If there is something you are not happy about, you can do something to change it. I think the Council should listen to us. It is very helpful for people to have a voice."

They have established an Advisory Group in Aberdeenshire with relevant stakeholders represented, including people with learning difficulties. The group is currently supporting them to develop an action plan to ensure that the extra resources provided by Progress Scotland will be well targeted and fully complement work already being done in Aberdeenshire.

Issues under discussion include:

- Ensuring people with learning disabilities have a voice in relevant planning processes
- Sharing information between groups and organisations across Aberdeenshire
- Finding out what training people will need to fully take part in meetings and forums.

They are keen to meet with organisations, individuals and self-advocated who may be interested in finding out more about Progress Scotland.

Please contact : (0131) 454 9052; Sylvia Crick, National Co-ordinator sylvia.crick@arcuk.org.uk
James Fletcher, Development Worker james.fletcher@arcuk.org.uk

Changes to Statutory Annual Leave

Statutory annual leave increases from 1st April, from 4.8 to 5.6 weeks (24 to 28 days). This can include the eight bank holidays. Further information on the legal actions required to facilitate this change can be found at <http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#annualleave>. Please also see the **Business Link guidance** at <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?r.l1=1073858787&r.l3=1074414642&topicId=1074414642&r.lc=en&r.t=RESOURCES&r.i=1079422234&r.l2=1073858926&r.s=m> which has templates for notifying workers of the change and how to calculate entitlement for part-time and other atypical workers.

Gift Aid Toolkit for Charities

A CD Toolkit to help charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) boost their income through Gift Aid has been launched by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

The Toolkit contains clear, basic guidance, templates, an interactive claim form and other materials to help charities and CASCs get started with Gift Aid and use Gift Aid in different fundraising situations. The Toolkit complements the updated and improved guidance on the HMRC website.

The new Toolkit can be obtained by calling HMRC Charities on 08453 020 203 or e-mailing charities@hmrc.gov.uk.

NEWS

Communities learning through doing

Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Community Development Centre are launching a new initiative to investigate connecting people with the natural heritage. The 'Learning through Doing' project will involve SNH and SCDC working with voluntary and community sector organisations to develop a series of action research projects. Action research is often defined as 'research done with people rather than on people'. Learning through Doing will offer voluntary and community organisations support, training and guidance to help them plan, develop and undertake their own action research project.

The focus of the project is to improve understanding of what works in connecting new audiences to the natural heritage. SNH/SCDC need to find voluntary and community organisations interested in developing an action research project, and are particularly keen to hear from those already working on projects which aim to:

- involve black and minority ethnic communities or excluded young people in the natural heritage;
- engage excluded and disadvantaged groups in activities at nature reserves; and
- involve people in learning about and improving the natural heritage in deprived areas of Scotland.

SNH/SCDC would also be keen to hear from community or voluntary organisations that would like to take forward action research to help plan or make the case for such activities. If you are interested in finding out more about the project, and how your organisation could get involved, please contact Scott Ferguson on 0141 951 0825 or scott.ferguson@snh.gov.uk.

Ageing Well in Aberdeenshire

This event was held in Westhill in October 2008. The link below takes you to the report of the event:

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/about/departments/AgeingWellReportDec17-12-08FINAL.pdf>

Standard Return on Investment (SRI)

Forth Sector Development, in conjunction with the SROI Network, has been engaged by the Scottish Government to develop, promote and support the use of Standard Return on Investment (SROI) as a way of measuring social impact and communicating value creation to be used by third sector organisations, funders, commissioners and accounting bodies. As part of the project we wish to engage with audiences by working key intermediary organisations introducing SROI, providing an overview of the project itself and introducing the training and portal that will be available later on in the year.

Would you be able to work with us to:

- include an introductory workshop in an event that you are running
- host a discussion session or forum
- include an article in an e bulletin
- produce a special report e mail update

If you would like further information on the project, or would like to discuss how we can work together please get in touch by email and we will get back to you.

Please find below a link to the Scottish Government Website information on the project, and links to both the SROI Network website and the Forth Sector Development Website.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/15300/SROI>; <http://www.sroi-uk.org/>

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Community Engagement and Empowerment Update from the Scottish Government

Community Voices Network

In April 2008, Scottish Ministers agreed to fund successor arrangements to the Community Voices Network (CVN), to support learning and networking in regeneration, for community activists and volunteers. We recently went through a procurement exercise to appoint a contractor to deliver a successor Network on our behalf. Unfortunately, we were unable to award the contract on the basis that no bids were of a high enough quality to meet the needs of members. Based on this outcome, we have taken the decision to disband the CVN.

Scottish Ministers remain committed to supporting community activists and volunteers involved in regeneration, at a national level and so we have looked again at how we could meet this commitment, taking a different approach. Whilst the CVN will no longer exist, we will continue to develop opportunities for community activists and volunteers. Over the coming months, we will be exploring a range of ways to build capacity and support learning and networking around regeneration. This will involve looking at how a number of existing resources currently supported by the Scottish Government can play their part. We will also look to strengthen and develop resources through other organisations that are part-funded by the Scottish Government, as well as with other stakeholders.

We would welcome your input to the process, to help develop new and innovative approaches and identify opportunities. Please contact me to discuss any ideas or suggestions that you may have, on how we could work together to support learning, networking and capacity building for community activists and volunteers involved in regeneration.

Community Empowerment Action Plan

Over the last few months, we have been working jointly with COSLA and colleagues in the third sector, to develop the Community Empowerment Action Plan. The Plan will be launched soon and will celebrate existing examples of community empowerment, to show what communities can achieve for themselves. The Plan will also provide clarity on key principles and practical action which will help make more communities become empowered.

Information is available on our website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/regeneration/engage>

Better Community Engagement: Development of a learning programme to support and improve practice in engaging with communities

The Community Empowerment Action Plan will cover several broad areas of work, and will include investing in an integrated programme to develop skills and capacity in community engagement. We are currently setting up a programme to develop a range of learning materials and programmes based on the "[*Better Community Engagement: A Framework for Learning*](#)", to meet the needs of those delivering community engagement in local areas. This will bring national coherence and ensure quality in training and learning around community engagement practice across Scotland.

The aims of this project are to establish one or more working models of effective learning for community engagement across Scotland; evidence how structured learning could impact or improve community engagement practice and provide an evidence base for future development of learning for community engagement. The model for delivery of this project is a national development programme which will operate through a small number of local demonstration projects.

An update on the progress of this work will be issued in April. In the meantime, if you would like any further information on this, or any other aspect of work that we are doing, please contact Wendy-Louise Smith, Community Engagement (Regeneration), communityengagement@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

NEWS

Online Survey for Volunteer Involving Organisations:

Volunteer Centre Aberdeenshire exists to support volunteering throughout Aberdeenshire and is currently looking for the views of volunteer involving organisations to help plan its work over the coming year.

The views of volunteer supervisors or managers of not-for-profit organisations that involve volunteers in Aberdeenshire are being sought through an online survey, which can be accessed at www.vcaberdeenshire.org.uk/viosurvey.html. The survey only takes a couple of minutes to complete, and will help the volunteer centre better meet the needs of organisations across the shire.

Entries will be entered into a prize draw for a volunteer management text book.

The survey will run until **Friday March 6th 2009**.

NB: If your organisation has multiple projects with different supervisors, we would welcome multiple entries from different supervisors.

Paper copies of the survey can be obtained by phoning 01467 626060

Win £2,500 Cash of Free Insurance For a Year

Keegan & Pennykid are offering charities and voluntary organisations the chance to win £2,500 cash or one year of free insurance cover, up to the value of £2,500 through their Encompass Insurance Policy. To enter the prize draw, simply visit their website and complete the short online entry form. The last date for entry is the 1st of May 2009. Winners will be announced on the 11th of June at the TFN Awards.

<http://www.keegan-pennykid-prizedraw.com/>

SCVO's Rural Blog Goes Live

The new SCVO Rural Blog is now up and running, and can be viewed by clicking

<http://scvorural.wordpress.com/>

The Blog will cover SCVO's work with the new Rural Network website, the Rural Direct service and with policy issues that affect the third sector in rural Scotland. Recent blogs by the team include Norman MacAskill's visit to Islay & Jura CVS, updates on the Royal Society of Edinburgh's 'Future of Scotland's Hills & Islands' event (held in Inverness earlier this month) and a report on the progress of Care Farming Scotland as it prepares to launch.

NESCU

North East Scotland Credit Union is committed to financial inclusion and presently has a majority of net borrowers. Credit Unions benefit all income groups and sectors of the community so, not just for altruistic reasons, but because NESCU membership will benefit you, please consider joining today.

- * regular saving
- * cheap, easily accessible loans
- * free (to the individual) death benefits
- * and you are contributing to an organisation committed to equality, justice and inclusion.

For further information contact Bill or Steve on 01224 899688, email info@nescu.co.uk or visit our website at www.nescu.co.uk

NEWS

ABERDEENSHIRE CVS TRAINING INITIATIVE

requires a
TRAINING ADMINISTRATOR

for the office based in Ellon

12 hours per week
Salary SJC GG2 SCP10-12
(£14,667 to £15,387) pro rata

1 year contract to March 2010

Job descriptions and application forms available from:

BRIDGE CVS
Telephone: 01771 624787
Email: maureen@bridgecvvs.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Monday 16th March 2009

Interviews: Friday 20th March 2009

Do you want to make a positive contribution to volunteering?

Seeking members for the Board of Directors Of Volunteer Centre Aberdeenshire

Volunteer Centre Aberdeenshire (VCA) promotes supports and develops volunteering because we passionately believe that volunteering contributes enormously to peoples' lives and communities where they stay in Aberdeenshire.

We are a growing organisation with three offices and seven members of staff. We have established ourselves as a reputable organisation delivering quality services to volunteers and organisations involving volunteers.

VCA is a Company Limited by Guarantee with charitable status, overseen by a Board of Directors with a wide range of experience from their involvement in the voluntary, public and private sectors. There are currently four Board meetings per year, with additional focus meetings as required.

If you have an interest in the work of VCA, and you are able to offer a commitment and have skills in any of the following areas, we would very much like to hear from you:

- Fundraising
- Strategic Management
- Campaigning
- Marketing
- Business Skills
- IT

To arrange an informal chat, a meeting, or to request an application form please ring 01330 825794 or check our website www.vcaberdeenshire.org.uk.

FUNDING NEWS

Help for Credit Unions in Scotland

A fund to help credit unions grow and weather the global downturn was launched by the Scottish Government earlier this year. The £250,000 scheme, to be delivered as part of the new Third Sector Enterprise Fund, will offer grants of up to £25,000, helping credit unions - financial co-operatives owned and controlled by their members - build capacity and become more sustainable organisations.

Mr Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, said:

"We recognise that Third Sector organisations, including credit unions, face challenges as a result of global economic difficulties. The Scottish Government highly values the contribution the sector can make to creating a wealthier and fairer country - which is why we increased funding by 37% and recently launched the Third Sector Enterprise Fund.

"At a time when many people are feeling the effects of global conditions, it is even more important that we utilise the Third Sector's contribution towards increasing sustainable economic growth to help Scotland emerge stronger from the downturn."

Credit unions are financial co-operatives operating in the Third Sector and wholly owned by their members. Many are community-based, offering savings and loans, as well as current accounts. It is estimated that there are around 120 credit unions in Scotland, with more than 200,000 members.

Scottish credit unions are eligible to apply for support from the Scottish Government's Third Sector Enterprise Fund and Scottish Investment Fund. However, it has now been decided to create a dedicated £250,000 Third Sector Credit Union Fund to help credit unions build their capacity, capability and financial sustainability. This will help them reach their potential and make a key contribution to achieving the Scottish Government's national outcomes.

A total of £250,000 will be invested from 2008-09 to 2010-11. The Scottish Government will offer funding of up to £25,000 for Credit Unions based on an assessment of an application form, current business plan and social outcomes. The Scottish Government's minimum investment will be £2,500. It is envisaged that there will be around 20 grants over the period 2008-2011.

For more information, interested credit unions can telephone 0141 305 4176.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/01/12103218>

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation Relocation

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation has moved offices, as of 2nd February 2009 their new contact details are:

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9AG

Telephone: 0207 8123 700 Fax: 0207 8123 701

The Henry Smith Charity

New Guidelines for work taking place in Scotland for Revenue and Capital Grants.

The Henry Smith Charity is a UK-wide grant maker distributing approximately £25 million each year. From 1st March 2009, the Henry Smith Charity is piloting a new application process for eligible projects in Scotland. Applicants must use the new guidelines and application form if they wish to apply for a grant towards a Revenue or Capital project taking place in Scotland, regardless of whether or not the organisation is based there. If the grant being applied for is UK-wide or is regional but involves some work in Scotland, please refer to the Henry Smith Charity's Main Grants Programme guidelines.

Please look at the website for further details and the application form. These will be available towards the end of February www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk

FUNDING NEWS

Awards for All is changing

On 3rd November 2008, it was announced that some important changes were coming to Awards for All in Scotland. The good news is that the Big Lottery Fund, sportscotland and the Scottish Arts Council remain committed to Awards for All which will continue in Scotland as a joint scheme from 1st April 2009. Awards for All will still give grants of £500 to £10,000 to a range of organisations and will continue to prioritise smaller voluntary and community sector organisations.

The changes mean that the current application materials will no longer be valid after 31st March 2009. Their teams are working hard to develop new application and guidance materials, which will be made available in advance of this date. **All applications made using the current form and guidance must be received before 31st March 2009.**

The Heritage Lottery Fund will no longer play a role in Awards for All but instead will use its current grant schemes - Your Heritage and Young Roots – to ensure the continuation of small community grants within the heritage sector. After 1st April 2009, heritage groups will still be able to apply to Awards for All for projects that involve the wider community. However, they will no longer fund heritage groups for projects that are solely for the benefit of their own group members and do not include the wider community.

More information about the changes can be found in the Awards for All Questions and Answers at http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/docs/scot_change_q&a.doc, and their Information Team can be contacted at scotland@awardsforall.org.uk or by phoning 0870 240 2391.

The search is on to find the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects

Fresh from strutting her stuff on *Strictly Come Dancing*, Lisa Snowdon is calling on the people of Aberdeenshire to nominate their favourite Lottery-funded project in The National Lottery Awards 2009 – the annual search to find the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects.

In the last year alone, over £3.8million of Lottery funding has gone to projects in the City of Aberdeen and throughout Aberdeenshire. And now, The National Lottery is encouraging these projects, and the thousands like them across the UK, to enter the Awards and gain recognition for their fantastic work.

National Lottery Awards ambassador, Lisa, says: "Each week Lottery players raise £25 million for Good Causes. The National Lottery Awards recognise the hard work, talent and amazing dedication of the people involved in running Lottery-funded projects, large and small. So now it's your chance to make sure your favourite project gets the recognition it deserves."

The projects that make it to the finals of The National Lottery Awards will appear on a star-studded prime-time BBC1 TV show later this year; they will also have a chance to win a £2,000 cash prize. "Whether a local community project has made a positive impact in your neighbourhood or the achievements of the Olympic and Paralympic athletes in Beijing inspired you, or if you are personally involved in a Lottery-funded project that is transforming lives, then now is your chance to nominate." says Lisa.

Curl Aberdeen, one of the country's top curling rinks, was a semi-finalist at the 2007 National Lottery Awards. Tom Brewster from the project is joining Lisa in urging local people to nominate their favourite Lottery-funded project for this year's Awards. He says: "It would have been great to have won our category, but getting to the semi-finals of a national competition really helped us raise our profile, especially within the local community."

So if you want a project from Aberdeenshire to be a winner, visit www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk to find out more. Nominations can be made by calling 0845 070 0112 or visiting the website. Entries must be received by 5pm on Friday 13 March 2009.

FUNDING NEWS



Lloyds TSB

Foundation for Scotland

SURGERY TOUR 2009

As part of its ongoing commitment to investing in the Scottish community, Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland holds a series of surgeries throughout Scotland for local recognised charities. The surgery is an opportunity for you to have a one-to-one session with one of our Assessors, and to discuss how to go about putting an application to the Foundation.

If you wish to attend one of the surgeries, please call **0870 902 1201** to arrange an appointment.

These are the surgeries closest to this area—others will be taking place throughout Scotland, details are available on the website: www.ltsbfoundationforscotland.org.uk

INVERNESS	2nd March 2009
PERTH	17th March 2009
ABERDEEN	24th March 2009
MONTROSE	26th May 2009
PETERHEAD	1st June 2009
DUNDEE	20th July 2009
BANFF	4th August 2009
INVERNESS	13th October 2009
ELGIN	11th November 2009
ABERDEEN	24th November 2009

Investing in Ideas extended

The deadline for Investing in Ideas has been extended to March 2010. This means that small grants for the research and development of projects in Scotland will still be available.

Rural Direct

Rural Direct is a service designed to help rural community organisations to access funding from a range of sources including the new Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP). Whether you're looking to refurbish your village hall, develop new local amenities and services, or work out a long term plan for your community's future development, funding is available to help you. They can help you get hold of it.

For more information see: <http://www.ruraldirect.org.uk/>

If you need help looking for funding, remember that GRA and K&D Voice can help with our knowledge of grants and funding available, and searches on the Grantfinder database. Contact: Alison.Melville@gordonrural.org.uk or Lindsay.Allardyce@kdvoice.org.uk

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Tesco Charity Trust Community Award

The Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards Scheme provides one-off donations of between £1,000 and £4,000. The funding goes towards providing practical benefits, such as equipment and resources for projects that directly benefit children, the elderly and adults and children with disabilities, living in the local communities around their stores in the UK. Grants for *Elderly People* and *Adults and Children with Disabilities* can be applied for between **1st February and 31st March 2009** with an expected decision date of the end of June.

See

www.tescopl.com/plc/corporate_responsibility/local_communities/community_investment/charitable_giving/tesco_charity_trust/

CRISIS - Changing Lives Programme

Crisis, the national Homeless Charity has announced that the Changing Lives Programme will re-open for applications from the **26th January 2009 until 13th March 2009**. The Crisis Changing Lives programme provides financial awards of up to £2,500 to solitary people who are homeless or settling into a home and looking for support so that they may achieve their vocational goals. The Awards can be used for: course fees; equipment or materials for courses; tools materials and equipment to get back to work; and to set up a business. Applications can not be made by the homeless person but rather by the support organisation providing ongoing help. This could be a key worker, someone providing guidance concerning training or employment, a housing support officer or someone like a mental health worker.

For more information, please visit the website at:

<http://www.crisis.org.uk/page.builder/changinglivesawards.html>

Community Foundation launches Express Grants Scheme

The Scottish Community Foundation has launched a new grants scheme aimed at community groups based in Scotland looking for funding. The new Express Grant scheme replaces the small grants scheme and offers grants of up to £2,000 to groups where small amounts of funding to make big differences in their communities. As the name suggests, Express Grants have a straightforward application process, and a short turnaround time, meaning that within six weeks, applicants will know if they've been successful. Applications can be submitted at any time.

For more information, visit <http://www.scottishcf.org>

Peter Harrison Foundation: Opportunities Through Sport

This programme, open to registered charities in the UK, supports sporting activities or projects that provide opportunities for people who are disabled or otherwise disadvantaged to fulfil their potential and to develop other personal and life skills. Grants will often be one-off grants for capital projects, however revenue funding for a new project or funding for the continuing success or survival of an established project will also be considered.

The following types of project proposals will be welcomed:

- Projects that provide a focus for skills development and confidence building through the medium of sport;
- Projects that have a strong training and/or educational theme within the sporting activity;
- Projects that provide sporting equipment or facilities for disabled or disadvantaged people;
- Projects with a high degree of community involvement;

Projects that help to engage children or young people at risk of crime, truancy or addiction.

For more information, visit <http://www.peterharrisonfoundation.org/index.htm>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Aberdeen Art of the Pitch

The Scottish Government is currently supporting a matching grant scheme administered by Arts & Business Scotland aimed specifically at encouraging business sponsorship of arts activities to help divert young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. The funding comes from the CashBack for Communities initiative which uses money seized from criminals to provide free activities for 10 -19 year olds throughout Scotland.

The aims of the Arts & Business Scotland scheme are to:

- Increase the number of businesses sponsoring arts activities that promote inclusion through the arts for young people between the ages of 10 and 19
- Promote the 'inspirational' power of the arts to expand the horizons of young people and help divert them from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour
- Involve Looked After Children and the Young Carers community for whom arts opportunities may be limited

This is a matching funding scheme, so for every £1 of sponsorship an eligible organisation receives, it can apply for £1 of funding from Arts & Business Scotland.

To promote the grant scheme, Arts & Business is holding "Dragons Den" style events around Scotland called "Art of the Pitch". The first event was held in Glasgow in December 2008. A second event will be held in **Aberdeen** at the Cowdray Halls on the **28th April** 2009.

There are two stages to Art of the Pitch - a written proposal, then if the project meets sponsorship criteria and is shortlisted, a face to face pitch to the sponsors in front of an audience at the event.

For the first stage they are asking you to complete and return the attached CashBack for Communities application form. The deadline for applications is **Friday 6th March**. A shortlist of four organisations will be announced by **Friday 13th March**. If shortlisted you will then have the opportunity to refine your proposal and to provide more detail about your potential project. Business sponsors will be given this information to enable them to consider your proposal carefully prior to the event.

For further information and an application form contact: Jeanie Scott, Business Development Manager, Arts & Business - Scotland, 11 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh EH3 6LB, T 0131 556 3353

E jeanie.scott@AandB.org.uk W www.AandB.org.uk

Third Sector Enterprise Fund

The Scottish Government's new Third Sector Enterprise Fund opened for applications in late January 2009. Funding of between £25,000 and £100,000 is available to organisations wishing to build their capacity and financial sustainability.

This Fund is not for Project work but for work associated with the development and long term sustainability of an organisation, which has to have a Legal Personna (or in the case of a Partnership/ Consortium, a lead member to have a Legal Personna) So, it is for trading as well as non-trading social organisations (seeking to trade or to develop long term sustainability). Up to £100000 is available but any business development activity over £70,000 requires a business plan.

For more info, visit <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/15300/funding/enterprising-skills-fund>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Centre for Social Justice Awards

Charities, small voluntary groups, or other projects tackling poverty at a local level are invited to apply for these awards. With a prize fund of £50,000, the Award aims to recognise and reward effective poverty fighting groups from across the UK. Applications close on the **17th March 2009**. For more information, visit the Centre for Social Justice website.

<http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/>

Community Food and Health's Small Grants Fund

Community Food and Health has announced that their small grants scheme will be open for applications from the 21st April 2009.

The small grants scheme makes available grants of between £500 and £3,000 to groups and agencies in Scotland working within low-income communities to improve access to, and take up of a healthy, varied and balanced diet.

All applications must tackle one or more of the barriers to healthy eating, these are: Availability; affordability; skills; and culture. Previously supported projects include: Age Concern Broomlands & Bourtreehill, for crockery, cutlery and kitchen utensils for an elderly lunch club; and Ayrshire Initiatives, a healthy eating initiative aimed at homeless people over the age of 16.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk/funding/smallgrants.php>

Cash for Your Group—Community Chest

The Voluntary Action Fund (VAF) is pleased to announce that the Community Chest has re-opened for new applications.

The Community Chest, a grant aimed at smaller community groups and voluntary organisations across Scotland, will provide grants of up to £1,000 and free training to groups with an annual income under £25,000.

Groups can apply for funding for a wide range of activities or operational costs.

However, they are particularly keen to fund activities that will help build and develop strong organisations, for example; training for committee members and volunteers; visits to other organisations and conferences or professional support and consultancy.

Applications for the Community Chest programme are welcome throughout the year with deadlines on 31st March, 30th June, 30th September and 31st December.

Groups wishing to apply for a Community Chest grant can download the application form and guidance notes from the VAF website at www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk.

Alternatively contact Patricia or Chris at the Voluntary Action Fund, either by telephone on (01383) 620780 or by e-mail at Patricia.McKibben@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk.

Big Lottery Fund Scotland: Research Grants

The Big Lottery Fund Research programme has grants of £10,000 to £500,000 available for research projects led by voluntary and community sector organisations. Projects can last for up to five years and applications are welcome from VCS organisations throughout the UK.

The Research programme can fund social, medical or socio-medical research with the aim of increasing the influence of the voluntary and community sector on public policy.

Applicants must be from the voluntary and community sector, but can work in partnership on their projects with the wider research community.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued from page 12)

Some important deadlines for the programme are now approaching. If you intend to apply for a grant from the Research programme, they must receive your project outline at:

https://www.bigresearchprogramme.org.uk/content.php?key=project_outline

before 5pm on Tuesday 31st March 2009.

This form is not an application but helps to identify appropriate peer reviewers for your project and plan the assessment process. If your project sounds like something they could fund under the Research programme, they will send a full application form.

The final deadline to receive your completed full application form is by 5pm on Friday 29th May 2009.

CONSULTATIONS

Improving the Lives of Children in Scotland - are we there yet?

Consultation on the Scottish Government's response to the 2008 Concluding Observations from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

If you work with children or work on their behalf, then you are promoting and supporting their rights. Children's rights are relevant to everyone whose work impacts on children - including teachers, social workers, police officers, nurses, judges, town planners, GPs, Directors of local authority services, classroom assistants etc. All of these and more have an interest in ensuring that children are able to fully enjoy their right to play, their right to be healthy and happy, to learn new things and be looked after and nurtured whether they live at home or not. All of these are rights enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC applies to all those aged under 18 in Scotland. It is an international law that recognises that all children and young people have rights.

The Scottish Government has made clear its commitment to the UNCRC and to promoting and supporting the rights of all children in Scotland as a key strand of its activity to improve outcomes for all.

On 3 October 2008 the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child issued a series of recommendations ('Concluding Observations') setting out where they believed the UK was falling short of ensuring the rights of all children. The full text of the Concluding Observations can be found here:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/CRC.C.GBR.CO.4.pdf>

The majority of the recommendations are of relevance to Scotland and the Scottish Government has committed to responding positively to them. The Government points out that in the vast majority of cases what is being done in Scotland is already very much in keeping with the UNCRC, with the Committee's recommendations and with the Government's ambition to improve outcomes for all children.

A table has been prepared that shows the draft Scottish Government response to each of the recommendations from either the UN Committee or domestic NGOs and the Children's Commissioner. They are now asking all those who work for or with children to let them know:

- What do you think are the most important issues for priority action?; and
- Do you think the proposed response is proportionate and realistic?

This consultation will help to prioritise actions as a result of the recommendations and gauge the response to activity already underway.

See: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/12/18090842/1>

The closing date for this consultation is Monday 2 March.

CONSULTATIONS

NHS Grampian Tobacco Consultation

NHS Grampian would like to hear the views of interested parties on proposals about how to make all NHS Grampian sites and grounds smoke free.

NHS Grampian's revised Draft Tobacco Policy means that patients, visitors and staff will not be allowed to smoke on NHS Grampian premises and grounds, or when using NHS Grampian services.

NHS Grampian is responsible for improving the health of the people in Grampian and recognises the dangers of passive smoking and the potential effects of this on patients, visitors and staff. NHS Grampian believes that all patients, visitors and staff have the right to be in a totally smoke-free environment. NHS Grampian provides support for people who wish to give up smoking.

NHS Grampian's current Tobacco Policy was developed in 2006, following a change to the law, and prohibited smoking within enclosed or substantially enclosed spaces. The aim of the Tobacco Policy (2006) was to ensure that all NHS Grampian sites become smoke free within a few years and the provision of smoking areas was only a temporary measure. The Consultation Paper explains the proposed changes. It is being circulated widely, for example, to voluntary organisations, Community Councils, self-help groups, user groups, MPs and MSPs and individuals.

NHS Grampian would like to give people the opportunity to comment on the implementation of the proposals. Get in touch via our website www.nhsgrampian.org and click on the smokefree logo to access the consultation document and download the questionnaire.

All responses to the consultation paper must be received by **Tuesday 31 March 2009**. All replies will be treated as confidential.

The consultation paper and questionnaire are available in large print and on computer disk. Other formats and languages can be supplied on request. We can also send out hard copies of the consultation paper, questionnaire and policy if required.

Please contact NHS Grampian Corporate Communications Team on 01224 554400 or email grampian@nhs.net

USEFUL WEBSITES

Fairtrade Vending Scotland

The new **FAIRTRADE VENDING SCOTLAND** website has been launched at www.fairtradevendingscotland.co.uk

This also now incorporates an **online quotation form** as well as their latest range of Fairtrade hot drinks machines.

You can fill this in for a non-obligation quote which they will e-mail back to you.

Alcohol Support Online

Alcohol Focus Scotland has launched a new online support service - AFS Alcohol Support Online - for people in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

The free and confidential service allows people to sign up via local agency Alcohol Support Ltd's website and exchange messages with a trained alcohol counsellor.

For more information go to www.alcoholsupport.co.uk

EVENTS AND TRAINING

COME AND MEET THE EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION LEGAL TEAM

18th March 2009: Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre

The Equality and Human Rights Commission champions equality and human rights for all, working to eliminate discrimination, reduce inequality, protect human rights and to build good relations, ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to participate in society.

The Commission's Scotland Legal Team is visiting the above locations, hosting lunches and afternoon Information Sessions. You will have the opportunity to find out more about the Commission, discuss how we can work together and let us know what issues are most significant to you and your service users.

Who should come: These events are for advice giving organisations, as well as frontline representatives of voluntary, community and educational organisations who give advice or assistance directly to the public. If unsure whether this would be relevant to your work, feel free to contact us to discuss.

Agenda: A confirmed agenda will be sent out closer to the time. We would also like to hear your suggestions on the equality issues most relevant to you. Email or phone us with your thoughts.

Booking a place: These events are **FREE**. However, spaces are limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Please email roadshow@equalityhumanrights.com, stating which event you wish to attend and they will send a booking form. For further details please contact: James Andrew on 0141 228 5917 or David Reilly on 0141 228 5967.

Scottish Disability Sport Talent Identification Days *Identifying Talent for London 2012 and Glasgow 2014*

This is your chance to demonstrate your skills in sports where SDS is trying to find Paralympic and Commonwealth athletes and players of the future. If you think you have got what it takes and you meet the criteria below please complete and return the application form. You can also register online at www.scottishdisabilitysport.com.

Please note ALL athletes wishing to attend MUST pre register for the event.

Saturday **14th March** 2009, Glasgow

Saturday **2nd May** 2009, Stirling

10am – 3pm

CLAN Challenges YOU to Get FIT... and raise money

CLAN is challenging you to join in with their 1, 2, 3 Fitness Challenge. The aim of the challenge is to get fit (or fitter), lose weight (hopefully) and raise money for the CLAN 1,2,3, Campaign at the same time. The challenge is for individuals or teams of 3, has a number of different difficulty levels and is aimed at everyone no matter what age or fitness level. Details of the challenge can be found at www.CLAN123fitnesschallenge.co.uk <<http://www.CLAN123fitnesschallenge.co.uk>> Entry forms can be downloaded from the website, or contact CLAN directly.

Why not encourage your friends and family to join in as well, there are no geographical restrictions – they can be located anywhere in the world and help to raise money for a charity that is close to your heart.

EVENTS AND TRAINING

CVS Training Initiative Programme

HEALTH & SAFETY (RISK ASSESSMENT)

A full day session covering all aspects of Health & Safety, including up to date current legislation and recommended good practice. Delegates will be introduced to the topic of risk assessment and have an opportunity to practice applying theory knowledge into practical understanding.

*Thursday 12th March 2009 9.30am – 4.30pm, Wyness Hall, Inverurie
£50 per person*

ELEMENTARY FOOD HYGIENE

This full-day REHIS registered event is designed for anyone newly involved with food handling or preparation or looking to refresh their knowledge and update their certificate. This nationally recognised certificate requires the successful completion of a short examination.

*Tuesday 17th March 2009 9.30am – 5.00pm, Robertson Rd Resource Centre, Fraserburgh
£55 per person*

APPOINTED PERSONS FIRST AID

A full day session designed to instruct individuals who wish to become a designated appointed person and take responsibility for managing first aid arrangements within low risk areas. A valid three-year certificate will be awarded after completion to the required standard of competency.

*Monday 23rd March 2009 9.30am – 4.30pm, Community Service Centre, Maud
£35 per person*

STRESS MANAGEMENT

This half-day training session is designed to explore the reasons for stress within the workplace and offer participants' alternatives and techniques to improve their work/home life balance and thus avoid long-term stress from becoming a significant problem.

*Wednesday 25th March 2009 10.00am – 1.00pm, Newburgh on Ythan Golf Club
£30 per person*

Please get in touch if you would like to book a place, require further information or to discuss your training needs, tel: 01358 722205; admin@cvstraininginitiative.org.uk

OSCR to take part in charity conference

Scotland's charity regulator is to participate in a major event examining the future of the sector. Creating a Sustainable Third Sector is organised by Holyrood Events and will take place at the Roxburghe Hotel in Edinburgh.

OSCR's Head of Monitoring and Investigation, Kirsty Gray, will outline OSCR's experience on governance issues, using key lessons learned from the failure of One Plus. Other speakers are:

- John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth
- Debra Allcock Tyler, Chief Executive, Directory of Social Change
- Lucy McTernan, Acting Chief Executive, SCVO
- Dharmendra Kanani, Director, Big Lottery Fund Scotland

Please note that all queries relating to this conference should be directed to Holyrood Events at <http://conferences.holyrood.com/content/view/925/142/>

EVENTS AND TRAINING



Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 Free Awareness Raising Workshop

Target Staff

The course is designed for anybody either as a volunteer, committee member or paid staff who work with older people and / or their carers. This would include community groups, lunch clubs, day care or in residential settings etc.

Aims

This course aims to raise awareness about the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 in the context of working with older people. It will explain the definitions used in the Act; the different types of harm that have been identified; the prevalence of harm occurring among older people; and how to recognise signs of harm. It will cover appropriate responses to suspicions, or disclosure of, harm, including staff responsibilities under the Act for sharing information.

Course Contents

- To understand what is meant by the terms “adult at risk” and “harm”.
- To understand different categories of harm and how to recognise these.
- To understand appropriate responses to concerns that an adult is at risk of harm, including conflicts and dilemmas that can arise.

To understand staff responsibilities for sharing information.

**A FREE half day workshop to be provided at the following venues.
There are 15 places available on each date.**

Date	Venue	Time	Please reply by
Tues 17 th March 09	Fort William, Lochaber College	1.30 pm - 4.30 pm	3 rd March 09
Tues 17 th March 09	Stirling, The Tolbooth	1.30 pm - 4.30 pm	3 rd March 09
Tues 17 th March 09	Glasgow, Sense Scotland	9.30 am - 12.30 pm	3 rd March 09
Wed 18 th March 09	Aberdeen, The Northern Hotel	1.30 pm - 4.30 pm	4 th March 09
Wed 25 th March 09	Glasgow, Sense Scotland	9.30 am - 12.30 pm	11 th March 09
Mon 30 th March 09	Edinburgh, The Gillis Centre	9.30 am - 12.30 pm	16 th March 09
Mon 30 th March 09	Perth, The Royal George Hotel	1.30 pm - 4.30 pm	16 th March 09

To book your **FREE** place, contact Age Concern below for an application form, complete one Application Form for each individual member of staff (by the closing date and post, fax or email to Amanda Maaskant, Age Concern Training, Unit 26 Martindale, Hawks Green Lane, Cannock. WS11 7XN Tel: 01543 503660 Fax: 01543 500940 or email: amanda.maaskant@ace.org.uk

You will be contacted in due course and informed whether your Application has been successful

EVENTS AND TRAINING

British Youth Council Training

High-impact workshops to develop key skills in your youth council meetings:

- Putting Your Point Across: Meetings - This session will give young people the confidence to speak up and develop skills needed to make the most of meetings.
- Putting Your Point Across: Decision-Makers - This will help young people represent other young people's views to decision-makers with ease.
- Putting Your Point Across: Campaigning - Learn a simple 5-step approach to planning and running a campaign to make sure it has the effect you want.

This training program for young people will be delivered in March by the British Youth Council. The training will take place over a full day and will involve all 3 workshops. It has been agreed to hold this twice in Aberdeenshire at different locations. Could you please let young people know about this opportunity, and let me know if you require places by contacting me at Lorna.Harris@aberdeenshire.gsx.gov.uk. Please note spaces are limited.

Shelter Scotland Training

Shelter Scotland are running a training course on 17th March in Edinburgh for staff working with socially isolated people with limited social networks, many of whom also have complex health needs. We are aware that health professionals are often the first point of contact for homeless and poorly housed people and that loneliness and vulnerability caused by a lack of connectedness is damaging to health and well being. This course has been developed by the Social Networks Forum to look at ways of engaging people to develop their social networks and is particularly suitable for those who work in a community setting. The course will cover the impact of positive social networks on the personal development of an individual, issues of dependency and experiment with tools and methods which increase the strength and sustainability of informal social networks.

The course costs £140 per delegate, £85 reduced rate for voluntary and community organisations, However if you book before **Tuesday 3rd March** then the cost will be £120 per delegate, £65 reduced rate for voluntary and community organisations. VAT of 15% will be charged in addition.

If you are interested in booking a place please complete the attached booking form or if you would like any further information about the course please do not hesitate to contact us. We would also be grateful if you could forward this email onto any of your colleagues who may be interested in attending the course.

Training coordinator, Shelter Scotland, Scotiabank House 6 South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh EH2 4AW. **Tel:** 0844 515 2477 **Fax:** 0844 515 2918 **Email:** trainingscotland@shelter.org.uk

EVENTS AND TRAINING

BANFF PARTNERSHIP—COMMUNITY TRANSPORT MINIBUS DRIVERS AWARENESS SCHEME (MIDAS) COURSE

MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2009

BOYNDIE VISITOR CENTRE

HALF DAY: 9.00am – 1.00pm £60.00 FULL DAY: 9.00am – 4.00pm £70.00

Cost includes – light lunch & refreshments

Aberdeenshire Council has recently changed the licence requirements for all drivers of council minibuses. From 1st October 2009 all community groups hiring a minibus from the Council will have to use a driver who has successfully completed a MiDAS course.

MiDAS is an initiative sponsored by the Community Transport Association to promote road safety, and is nationally recognised by the Police and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. The course is in 2 parts, each lasting about 4 hours. The first part of the course covers the legal requirements for carrying passengers in the vehicle, passenger and personal safety, road safety awareness and defensive driving. The second half is optional and trains drivers to assist and carry passengers in wheelchairs. Minibus drivers are then required to undertake a formal assessment of their driving skills.

Banffshire Partnership Ltd (BPL) is an approved training centre for driver and passenger assistant training courses sponsored by the CTA. BPL can also stage courses for:

MiDAS for car and MPV, a development of the original course for the smaller vehicle.

Passenger assistants, or escorts who have legal responsibilities and a duty of care in addition to those of the driver.

Emergency evacuation of minibuses, a course recommended for all drivers and passenger assistants.

Manual handling, for drivers and passenger assistants who have to help elderly or infirm passengers into and out of seats.

To book a place on this course or for more details of courses available at the Boyndie Centre, or to arrange courses at your own venue:

Contact - Pete or Jan on Tel. 01261 843598 or e-mail us at bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk

NEXT ISSUE

The next e-bulletin will come out on Thursday 30 April 2009. If you would like to include any information, please send it to Alison Melville by the morning of Tuesday 28 April 2009.

Email: Alison.Melville@gordonrural.org.uk

The K&D Voice/GRA Newsletter will be sent out at the end of March. Please contact mail@kdvoice.org.uk if you would like to have information included.

If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please contact Alison Melville at the address above.

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