

NEWS

Does your group have equipment or a meeting room for hire?

CVSA are compiling a list of meeting places and equipment available to local groups in the Central and South Aberdeenshire area. If you want to add to our list please contact Shonagh Thom at Shonagh.Thom@cvsa.co.uk.

Becoming a member of CVSA

As mentioned in the last CVSA newsletter, local voluntary groups in the Central and South Aberdeenshire area can become members of CVSA free of charge. We provide advice and support on a range of issues concerning the voluntary sector such as governance, funding, training, policies and procedures and much, much more. To become a member, just fill in a membership form which is available on our website at www.cvsa.co.uk and return it to Valerie.Cameron@cvsa.co.uk.

Credit Crunch Helpline

The NHS has launched a Credit Crunch Helpline for people who are suffering from stress as a result of the hard financial times. The number is 0300 123 2000 and lines are open 8.00am – 10.00pm seven days a week.

Compare The Square - The various plans for Aberdeen's Union Terrace Gardens



Union Terrace Gardens is a historic city centre park in Aberdeen. Different plans have been developed to revive the area and attract more people to the city centre. One option has been developed by Peacock Visual Arts and includes a new contemporary art centre that sits against the existing slopes of the gardens, leaving the gardens mostly intact. These plans have full planning permission and most of its funding in place. The other option currently being looked into is that of Sir Ian Wood and ACSEF, who wish to get rid of the historic gardens all together and replace it with a large new square, covering over both the gardens and the Denburn road and railway line. These plans have no planning permission yet and still need to secure significant amounts of public and private money.

This site will give you some facts and figures to compare the two: www.comparethesquare.com

Next CVSA Newsletter

The next CVSA newsletter, going out at the end of March, will feature the home of Janis Loudon who has managed to furnish her extensive house with furniture from The Boxroom, Freegle and many local charity shops. Janis has shown an alternative way to furnishing her home whilst saving money, supporting local charities and reducing waste going to landfill sites. If you have a similar story or a unique way of reducing waste, we'd like to hear from you!

“A Right Blether”

“A Right Blether” is an ambitious consultation with Scotland’s children and young people on issues that affect their lives. What Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People learn through “A Right Blether” will enable their priorities to be directly influenced by them. The resulting priorities will be used to influence law, policy and practice. This will include ensuring that the Scottish Government fulfils its obligations to Scotland’s children and young people under the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC). “A Right Blether” with Scotland’s children and young people will lead up to their national vote in November where they will let us know what is most important to them. Please accept an invitation to come to one of the following launches being hosted across Scotland:

Tuesday 9th March, 4.30 – 6.30pm, Trades Hall, Glassford Street, Glasgow

Friday 12th March, 1.30 – 3.30pm, Inverness (venue tbc)

Tuesday 16th March, 4.30 – 6.30pm, Dewars Centre, Glover Street, Perth

Friday 19th March, 1.30 – 3.30pm, Oasis Youth Centre, Newall Terrace, Dumfries

Tuesday 23rd March, 5.30 – 7.30pm, Merchants’ Hall, Hanover Street, Edinburgh

This will be a chance for us to have A Right Blether and for you to explore how your organisation can become involved in what will be a hugely exciting and influential piece of work. There will also be two guests speakers at each event. There are limited places at each event so you will need to RSVP as soon as possible to guarantee a place. If you cannot make the event please pass the invitation on to a colleague.

For more information on the event or to RSVP, please contact Sareta Puri at sareta.puri@sccyp.org.uk or on 0131 558 3733.

Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG Scheme) Progress Update

Below is a link to the latest issue of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG Scheme) Progress Update Newsletter from the Scottish Government. Its purpose is to keep you up to date with progress and plans in the run up to the PVG Scheme going live at the end of 2010.

In this issue:

- ◆ The fees associated with PVG Scheme membership and long term cost benefits;
- ◆ Police information and the PVG Scheme;
- ◆ Why some offences do not meet automatic listing criteria;
- ◆ Updates on information events, systems and guidance and training activities;
- ◆ How to get information material in Arabic, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu.

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvglegislation/News/Jan2010

Better Together

The purpose of the Better Together website is to give the public a space to be able to share their experience of NHS services both good and not so good. Members of the public are advised to suggest an improvement, say what went well in their hospital stay or give tips to others from their experience. The site allows stories to be searched for under the themes of service, condition and health board. It is now being promoted so that patients can upload their experiences of the NHS to the website. All stories are vetted to ensure that nothing inappropriate appears on this site that is personal about a member of staff or offensive.

Website: www.bettertogetherscotland.com

Community Empowerment Newsletter

The first issue of the new community empowerment newsletter is now available from the Scottish Government website. As well as updating readers on the progress of the Community Empowerment Action Plan, and detailing training and upcoming events, the newsletter includes inspiring examples of how communities across Scotland have become empowered, from Orkney through South Lanarkshire to Dumfries and Galloway. The newsletter will be issued on-line on a quarterly basis, to help inspire, encourage and support community empowerment across Scotland.

You can access the latest edition of the newsletters at the following web address:
www.scotland.gov.uk/communityempowerment

They are looking for more examples of community empowerment to highlight in future editions of the Newsletter. The next edition will be published in March/April. To showcase the work your community or organisation is involved in to support community empowerment, please contact Wendy-Louise Smith: Tel: 0141 305 4186 Email: WendyLouise.Smith@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.
Post: Community Engagement, Regeneration Directorate, The Scottish Government, Highlander House, 58 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 7DA.

We Exist: A Bill for Autism, A Bill for Scotland

With the recent passing of the Autism Act 2009 and the development of autism specific strategies in Northern Ireland, England and Wales, Scotland is now notably the only nation in the UK without any government led strategy on dealing with autism. 'We Exist: A Bill for Autism, A Bill for Scotland' asks the Scottish Government to implement a national strategy, backed with legislative power through a Scottish Autism Bill, to meet the needs of people living with autism in Scotland. Hugh O'Donnell MSP has published his proposal for a draft Scottish Autism Strategy Bill in the Scottish Parliament. There will be three months of public consultation before MSPs will decide if the proposal will go on to be debated as a draft bill. Hugh's proposal is based on implementing in Scotland the Autism Act that passed through the Westminster Parliament last year but only applied to England. It would require the Scottish Government to put in place a national ASD strategy and to place appropriate duties on councils and health boards that will support its implementation.

You can find more information on the campaign at www.autism.org.uk/scottishautismbill
The public consultation opened on the 6th January 2010 and all responses must be submitted by Tuesday 30th March 2010. Details of the public consultation and how to respond can be found on the Scottish Parliament website. The link is www.scottish.parliament.uk

Looking After Yourself

Friday 30th April 10am - 2pm

Staff from Healthpoint will be at Aberdeen Carers Centre to offer health checks for carers and complimentary therapists will be here to give a "taster" of reflexology, reiki or Indian head massage.

Take some time out and come along to "Look after yourself".

24 - 28 Belmont Street, Aberdeen AB10 1JH

Tel: 01224 646677

Email: carers.info@vsa.org.uk

Scottish Helpline for Older People - Message in a bottle

The Lions Club has developed the Message in a Bottle Scheme that has been in use across the UK for a number of years. The scheme is very simple - you place a form containing personal information such as medication, illnesses, next of kin etc in a small plastic bottle that you keep in the door of your fridge, so that if you take ill, anyone attending to you will have access to the important information that could make a big difference. If you have a pet, you can even provide details of the care required in case you are temporarily unable to look after it. The Scottish Helpline for Older People is now able to provide a service nationally, across the whole of Scotland, to any individual who would like to take up the service.

To obtain your free bottle, simply telephone the Scottish Helpline for Older People on 0845 125 9732 leaving your name and address and stating that you would like a Message in A Bottle. They will post one out to you free of charge.

Have your charity's details changed?



Charities have a duty to inform OSCR about the following changes no later than three months after the change has taken place.

You should tell OSCR when:

- ◆ the Principal contact changes
- ◆ the contact details of the existing Principal Contact changes
 - ◆ the accounting year end date has changed
- ◆ changes unrelated to purposes are made to the constitution
- ◆ when any change consented to by OSCR is implemented.

For more information on when you should contact OSCR please visit www.oscr.org.uk

The Big Lottery Fund have created a Heroes Return blog!

The blog provides access to a selection of stories from veterans' trips, war time recollections, photos and videos. The blog is for veterans and anybody else involved such as family members, carers, and BIG's Heroes Return team.

If you would like to see these accounts or contribute your own stories, please visit www.heroesreturn.org

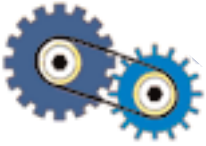
The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Any member of the public can nominate a volunteer group working in the local community, even if you benefit from its work. You can nominate any group of two or more people in the UK doing volunteering work that provides a specific benefit to a local area for three or more years. Their volunteering work can include support to people overseas. Activities don't only have to provide direct benefits to the local community, like running a youth club. They can also provide indirect benefits, like protecting the environment. A volunteer group's work must involve more than just fundraising.

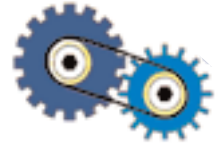
You can nominate a group at any time but if you wish to make sure your group is considered for an award in the following year, your nomination must be received by 30 September.

Visit: www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/UKgovernment/Honoursawardsandmedals/TheQueensAwardforVoluntaryService/index.htm

EVENTS & TRAINING



CVS Training Initiative February - March 2010 Programme



Disciplinary & Grievance - am Termination Of Employment - pm

Tuesday 16th March, Viewmount, Stonehaven

This training is split into two stand alone training courses

Half day - £45 pp Full day - £90 pp

Trainer: Janine Sydenham, Zest HR

Closing date for booking - 2nd March 2010

Appointed Person First Aid

Thursday 25th March 2010, Harvest Community Centre, Peterhead

9.30am - 4.30pm

£45 pp

Trainer: Caroline Hay-Crawford

Closing date for booking 11th March 2010

An Introduction to Social Accounting

Wednesday 14th April, Mearns Community Centre, Laurencekirk

10am - 4pm

£42 pp - Voluntary/Community Sector

£56.00 pp - Statutory Sector

Kevin McDermott, Social Account Network

(cost includes a copy of the Social Audit Network's manual.

Second representatives from the same voluntary/community organisation can attend the course at a cost of £10 without provision of a manual)

NB: This course will be repeated in the North area in the Autumn.

Closing date for booking - 6th April 2010

All training events are open to anyone who wishes to attend, subject to the following pricing structure:

Voluntary/Community Groups - advertised price, Local Authorities - advertised price + 33%, Commercial enterprises - advertised price + 50%

For further information or to book a place contact:

Diane/Shirley 01358 722205 admin@cvstraininginitiative.org.uk

Voluntary Sector Blood Donation Drive

On March 11th 2010, between 2pm - 4pm and 5.15pm - 8pm, the Blood Transfusion Service with the support of ACVO, GREC and the Quantum Foundation, will be holding a Voluntary Sector Blood Donation Drive at the Aberdeen Citadel in the Castlegate, Aberdeen.

To book a time to donate please telephone the BTS on (01224) 812459. The Voluntary Sector Blood Donation session is aiming to achieve a target of 140 new donors. Please help make this a reality: Donate Blood & Save a Life.

For more information, please visit:

www.acvo.org.uk/voluntarysectorblooddrive.html

EVENTS & TRAINING



North East of Scotland Child Protection Committee

North East of Scotland Child Protection Committee

All NESPCPC training continues to deliver training in response to a clearly identified need. Although each of the NESPCPC training sessions have a different area of focus, they all relate directly to INTER-AGENCY child protection work and are a means of continually improving practice.

Remember that all of the training provided by the NESPCPC is FREE!!

Visit their website to view their training calendar for April - July 2010

www.nescpc.org.uk/AboutNESPCPC/TrainingEvents.asp

Breaking-down stereotypes and engaging fathers in services for children and families

Tuesday 9 March 2010, Aberdeen (hosted by Aberdeen City Council) - 10.00am to 3.30pm

Fathers and male carers, whatever their situation, are important to the development, well-being and life chances of children. Public bodies across Scotland have a legal responsibility to actively promote gender equality. Engaging positively with fathers and men as carers is an important aspect of this duty for all types of child and family service.

In 2009, Children in Scotland carried out a survey of the Gender Equality Duty activities and priorities of local authorities and NHS boards across Scotland. These one-day practice sharing events will examine the key findings of this survey and explore practical solutions to the challenges of achieving gender equality in services for children and families. The events will look at approaches used across a wide range of services, including early years, education, health and parent support.

Key areas that will be covered include:

- ◆ engaging with fathers positively in services for children and families
 - ◆ increasing male participation in the children's sector workforce
- ◆ reducing gender stereotyping in the education, career and parenting
 - ◆ choices of current and future generations.

These events are suitable for professionals and those from organisations providing services for children including nurseries, schools, medical practices, hospitals and social services

Cost per delegate: £50.00. Book a place online at www.childreninscotland.org.uk/ged or contact Alison Rowan by e-mailing arowan@childreninscotland.org.uk or telephoning 0131 222 2405.

Huntly Walking Festival 16th - 18th April 2010

Whether you wish to keep fit, take part in a fun atmosphere, raise funds for a charity of your choice (or all three!) the sponsored walk will tick all the boxes. All you need to do is register your interest via this link:

www.huntly.net/events/page.php?event_id=79

and pass on this email to everybody you know.

With the £15 registration fee, you will: receive a T-shirt especially designed for the walk, heaps of freebies, get the chance to take part in a massive group walk AND help raise funds and awareness for 2 chosen charities this year: The Huntly Area Cancer Support Group and The NE Wildlife & Animal Rescue Centre.

EVENTS & TRAINING

Mearns Community Conference 13th March 2010

The Mearns Area Partnership in conjunction with Transition Mearns is to hold a Community Conference from 10am until 3.30pm on Saturday the 13th March at Mearns Academy called Mearns Moving Forward which you are cordially invited to. The aim of the day is to bring local people, community groups and agencies together in developing community sustainability and environmental awareness. Speakers will include Donald Barrie from Glensaugh Research Station and Tom Black from the Scottish Development Trust.

There will be displays about local community projects and funding bodies as well as a series of workshops running throughout the day including, alternative energy advice, energy saving around the home, grants and film screenings. This event is free of charge and is available for all to attend; there are drop-in activities throughout the day for children ranging from Satrosphere to craft workshops as well as a crèche in the workshop. Lunch will be provided at a reasonable price and we aim to source local produce where possible.

Further information and registration forms can be obtained by emailing:
mearns.community.conference@googlemail.com

One day help! Programme



Does your child have an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) with a recent diagnosis within the last 18 months or so? Is he/ she aged between 3 and 14? Do you require information about your child's rights and entitlements to services and welfare benefits? Do you require an overview of ASDs and tips on communication with your child? Do you want to know more about the National Autistic Society, Scotland

A support and information day for parents/carers of children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder in the past two years or so is being held on
Thursday 25th March, 9.30am - 3pm at The Main Auditorium,
Sheddocksley Baptist Church, Eday Walk, Aberdeen AB15 6LN

To book a place on this programme please phone:
Lauren Jarvis on 0141 285 7114
NAS Scotland, Central Chambers, 109 Hope St, Glasgow G2 6LL

Youth & Community Partners Dialogue (South Aberdeenshire) March 25th, Stonehaven Town Hall 1 – 4pm

A number of Community Planning partners will be present on the day to consult with young people on a variety of issues affecting them. The day will be set up in a world café style enabling everyone to get their point of view across to each service.



Numbers are very limited.

Please book your places as soon as possible to;
dialogueyouth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



EVENTS & TRAINING

Buchan Dial-a-Community Bus

Buchan Dial-a-Community Bus is a local transport charity based in the Buchan area. They run a number of training programs for MiDAS (Minibus Drivers Awareness Scheme) . Courses in 2010:

Wednesday 10th March, Thursday 8th April, Monday 10th May, Tuesday 15th June, Wednesday 14th July, Thursday 12th August, Monday 20th September, Tuesday 19th October, Monday 22nd November, Thursday 16th December

For any information or to book training at your own venue, please contact the office on 01771 619191 or email admin@dialabus.org.uk

Business Know How North East

Various dates from Jan to May 2010

Various locations within the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire areas.

The Business Know How North East Partners have announced the programme of Knowledge-Exchange workshops for 2010. These interactive workshops are for third sector delegates from Aberdeen City and Shire and are suitable for organisations of all sizes aspiring to diversify their income streams and more effectively pursue their aims. They are delivered by private sector organisations and for the most part are free to delegates. Specific objectives are set for each workshop and delegates complete a personal action plan at each workshop. Attendance provides delegates with automatic membership of the BKH Network.

Places are limited to two delegates per organisation. For further information or to book places, please email funding@acvo.org.uk or visit <http://www.aberdeenccn.info/BKH/BKHTraining.asp>

A Celebration of Volunteering

Are you a volunteer? Do you manage volunteers?

Are you a trustee of a volunteer involving organisation? Do you want to recruit new volunteers?

If you can answer yes to any of the above, then this free event is for you!

United Reformed Church, Mid Street, Fraserburgh. AB43 9AJ

Saturday 20th March 2010 10a.m. to 3p.m.

The day will be an opportunity to attend some short tasters and workshops on how to look after your organisation, yourself and your volunteers, recruit new volunteers and to network with other voluntary groups. All for Free

FUNDING

The National Churches Trust Repair & Community Grants

The National Churches Trust aims to protect and support the built heritage of churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout the UK. Applicant churches can be of any denomination or be members of an umbrella body belonging to Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Repair grants are for both listed and unlisted churches, chapels and meeting houses of any age, as long as they are open for public worship. Funding is available for structural repairs essential to safeguard the fabric of the building that will cost more than £40,000.

Community grants help churches to provide facilities that will benefit the place of worship and local community, e.g. accessible toilets, kitchens and meeting rooms.

For further information visit www.nationalchurchestrust.org

FUNDING

Sports for Change

The aim of the programme is to understand more about the role sport can play in delivering positive change within the lives of individuals and communities. Maximum grants of £100k are available. All potential applicants need to complete an initial 'Letter of Interest' and then, if invited, submit a full proposal. The next deadline for submission of Letter of Interest is 21st May. Further deadlines will be announced in due course. For more information or to apply visit the Comic Relief website at: www.comicrelief.com/apply_for_a_grant/uk/sport

Recession response - BIG Lottery Fund

As part of the BIG Lottery's UK response to the recession announced in June last year, an additional £5 million was made available from Friday 23rd October to a number of their existing grant-holders in Scotland who are working with people and communities most in need following the economic downturn. Funding is being channelled through existing grantholders to ensure help can be provided quickly to communities most in need. This recession package is available to current Life Transitions, Supporting 21st Century Life, Growing Community Assets, Young People's Fund and Primetime grantholders with projects that are not due to end before March 2010. All eligible projects have been contacted and advised to request a "changes to your grant" form if they wish to apply. These forms can be requested by contacting the Information Team on 0870 240 2391 and further details about the recession response can be found on their website at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/newsroom-sco



Volunteer Arts Scotland - Make A Splash!

This grant making trust has grants of £250 to £2K for small voluntary groups to create new opportunities for more people to participate in creative activities. Funding can be used to help pay for a wide range of things such as equipment, publicity, venue hire, staff time, volunteer training or materials. A total of £210k is available for 3 years up to 2012. For more information or to apply visit their website at www.peoplemakingwaves.org.uk/makeasplash

Clore Duffield



Clore Duffield offers grants of between £5,000 to in excess of £1m through their Main Grants programme. Your group must be a registered charity to apply. Clore Duffield's priorities are in museums, galleries and heritage sites, the arts, education, health, social care and disability and their funds can be used to match lottery funding, capital redevelopments, project, programme and revenue funding. Clore Duffield are unlikely to fund staff posts, projects outside the UK, local branches of national charities, academic or project research or conference costs.

Application is by letter - see the Clore Duffield website for guidelines and there are no deadlines.

www.cloreduffield.org.uk

Decisions are made at Trustee meetings. You should receive a response from the Foundation within four weeks of contacting them if you have included a self-addressed envelope.

FUNDING



Community Trees and Trees for Schools

This fund has grants for Community Trees and Trees for Schools. Grants of 75% of planting costs are available for projects costing between £100 and £700. Applicants need to contribute the remaining 25%. Deadline for applications is 31 May 2010.

For more information visit their website at www.treecouncil.org.uk

Age Unlimited

Startup funding is available for social enterprises set up by people over 50 to help those over 70. Support and training is also available. Closing date - 1st March 2010.

Visit their website at
www.nesta.org.uk/areas_of_work/public_services_lab/ageing/age_unlimited_scotland
or call 01382 229 521.

Skills for the Future

The Heritage Lottery Fund's Skills for the Future programme, has funding for projects which provide paid training placements to meet a skills gap in the heritage sector, and fully support trainees to learn practical skills. It will fund traditional conservation training and also the skills needed to engage people with heritage. This could include the skills to deliver education, community participation or volunteering programmes, or to use new media and technology to open up heritage. Deadline 19 March.

Visit www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/Skillsforthefuture.aspx

E.ON Sustainable Energy Fund



E.On is a power and gas generating and distributing company. The E.ON Sustainable Energy Fund offers grants of up to £20,000 to community groups and not for profit organisations who wish to consider and implement sustainable energy projects in their buildings. The next deadline is 2 April 2010.

For more information or to apply visit their website at <http://eon-uk.com/about/2654.aspx>

Have you received Rural Priorities funding?

Are you involved with a community group or voluntary organisation that has been successful in securing Rural Priorities funding?
Would you like to help us help other communities access funding?

Then The Rural Direct team like to hear from you.



The Rural Direct team are compiling a series of case studies from organisations that have applied for Rural Priorities funding and they'd love to hear about your projects and what you think about the whole application process. In particular, they'd like to hear from those of you

who might like to join them at one of the SNRN events (locally or in an other region) to talk about your project and maybe even help "demystify" the SRDP application procedures. If you would like to share more about your project please give The Rural Direct team a call on 0845 838 8598 or email: info@rualdirect.org.uk

FUNDING

Big Lottery Fund - 2014 Communities



Does your local sports club need extra money or volunteers to help realise its ambitions? Is your group trying to encourage more people to take up healthier lifestyles? Does your project encourage young and old to come together for sport or physical activity? If so, then 2014 Communities could be for you. It is this project's ambition to create a lasting legacy from the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow to help people live longer, healthier lives. Local sports clubs, voluntary and community organisations, community councils and schools can apply for a six month grant of between £300 and £1000 (including VAT).

For more information visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/2014 or call the hotline on 0870 240 2391.

Energy Assistance Package - funding for fuel poverty

The Energy Assistance Package includes a range of measures with the aim of supporting those having difficulty in heating their homes, including:

- ◆ Tackling low incomes through benefit and tax credit checks
- ◆ Reducing high fuel costs through advice on social tariffs
- ◆ Improving the energy efficiency of the property through advice, insulation and heating measures.

Those most vulnerable to fuel poverty are eligible for most assistance, potentially including free insulation and central heating. These groups are: families with a child under 5 or a disabled child under 16 living in an energy inefficient property and in receipt of income or disability-related benefits; those over 60 with no central heating; those 60-74 living in an energy inefficient property and in receipt of income or disability-related benefits, or those over 75 living in an energy inefficient property

The Energy Assistance Package scheme is being managed for the Scottish Government by the Energy Saving Trust and you can find out more about it by visiting:

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/Scotland-Welcome-page/At-Home/Energy-Assistance-Package

Tudor Trust

This grant making charitable trust has funding for youth; older people; community; relationships; housing; mental health; substance misuse; learning; financial security and criminal justice. It makes grants in the region of £19 million per year and aims to support smaller community, voluntary and charitable organisations. Grants can take the form of core funding (including salaries and running costs), development funding, project grants or capital grants for buildings or equipment. There is no maximum or minimum grant amount that an organisation can apply for. Applications can be submitted at any time. For more information or to apply visit their website at: <http://tudortrust.org.uk/>

The Voluntary Action Fund

The Voluntary Action Fund Scotland's leading independent grant-making body investing in small voluntary and community based organisations throughout Scotland has announced its funding priorities for 2010-2011 for its Community Chest grants programme. Applications for the Community Chest programme are welcome throughout the year with the next deadlines being the 30th June, 30th September and 31st December 2010. Groups wishing to apply for a Community Chest grant can download an application form and guidance notes from the VAF website at

www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk.
Alternatively call 01383 620780.

FUNDING

Children 'Go Play'

Funding totalling £4 million is to be provided by the Scottish Government to improve play opportunities among five to 13 year-olds. 'Go Play', which will run over two years, will help improve facilities and services in areas where children have the least opportunities to develop through play. Voluntary groups will be able to submit funding bids from mid-September, with support available for regional bodies, small grassroots community organisations and medium and large scale charities. Inspiring Scotland - the national charity which uses skills and money to improve the lives of Scotland's most vulnerable people - will manage the fund and work with these groups to increase their capacity for providing play opportunities.

For the full story, visit: www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/08/11101002

Community Foundation Express Grants Scheme

The Scottish Community Foundation new grants scheme is 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 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>

Youth Scotland No Messin'! Programme



Has your group got an idea? If you do, you can get money to make it happen. It's not always easy to find somewhere safe to play or hang out. This is your youth group's chance to get something going. It's simple. Your group identifies the problem (could be that they get bored and end up playing in dangerous places, or get pushed around by an older group) then you come up with a project that solves it! This could include the chance to play a sport or other things to do locally. Then NO MESSIN'! could give your group the money, support and training to make it happen.

This is your group's chance to get up to £200 to turn your idea into reality, and to go on a three-day residential training course with other teams from Scotland, Wales and England. The training will help make your project a success as your group learns skills in teamwork, problem-solving and communication.

To find out more visit the Youth Scotland website at:
<http://www.youthscotland.org.uk/projects/no-messin.htm>

Nationwide Small Grants Programme

This programme offers grants of up to £5,000 to registered charities with incomes of under £500,000.

They will give priority to:

- ◆ Applications for work engaging families of beneficiaries
- ◆ Applications for work which fits more than one objective (e.g. aims to address the financial and the housing issues of survivors of domestic violence / older people identified)
- ◆ Work supporting those groups identified who are from deprived areas

For more information visit: www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk/funding.asp

FUNDING

Vodafone's World of Difference Programme



Vodafone is giving people 18 years old and over anywhere in the UK the opportunity to make a World of Difference in the Community. Successful applicants could spend two months working at the charity of their choice. Vodafone will pay the charity £2,500 and the applicant will receive the balance left after the charity has paid all National Insurance and Tax contributions for their placement. Vodafone will also give successful applicants a new mobile phone, with a pre-loaded SIM.

In order for applications to be considered, the applicant will need to; have discussed their intention to apply for World of Difference with their chosen charity and have a plan for what they would like to achieve in their two months with that charity; provide contact details for their chosen charity; be available for an induction day in London on 12th April 2010 (for placements beginning on the 13th April 2010).

For more information visit: <http://worldofdifference.vodafone.co.uk/aboutWOD.html>

Training Opportunities: Community Based mental health organisations

Community Food and Health (Scotland) has funds available to support community based mental health organisations provide training to their staff and volunteers in food, nutrition and health.

Constituted organisations can apply for the funding for the following courses - REHIS Elementary Food and Health Course (max 10 per organisation) and RSPH Certificate in Nutrition and Health level 3 (max 1 per organisation). Organisations can also apply for funds to pay the costs for staff who meet the eligibility criteria to register with REHIS as an Elementary Food and Health tutor. For full details of this offer and an application form visit www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk or contact Sue Rawcliffe on 0141 227 6462.

CONSULTATIONS & PETITIONS

Scottish Government Consultation: A Strategy for Self Directed Support

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the wider roll out of Self Directed Support in particular the use of Direct Payments, the most enabling form of Self Directed Support. The national strategy for self-directed support in Scotland has been developed to help take forward the personalisation of health and social care services in Scotland. The closing date for the consultation is 7th May 2010.

For further information and to access the online questionnaire visit:
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/05133942/0

Consultation on Alcohol Labelling

The Scottish Government, along with the other devolved administrations and Department for Health, has today launched a consultation on alcohol labelling. Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon said that if compliance with the existing voluntary code does not improve, then mandatory labelling will be a 'strong option'. The consultation includes three options: do nothing and continue with the current voluntary agreement; renew and strengthen the existing self regulatory agreement; or introduce a mandatory requirement on labelling.

Deadline: 9th May 2010. Please visit:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/Healthimprovement/Alcoholmisuse/DH_112472

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CONSULTATIONS & PETITIONS

Petition - Safeguard funding of charities

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to make representations to the banking and other private funding sectors to ensure that funding which they provide to charities is maintained in order to protect the jobs and services they provide, many of which are carried out on behalf of public bodies, and to outline how it will address any funding shortfall as a result of the current financial difficulties faced by banks and others.

To sign the petition visit: http://epetitions.scottish.parliament.uk/view_petition.asp?PetitionID=360

Scottish Government Consultations

Consultation is an essential and important aspect of Scottish Government working methods. Given the wide-ranging areas of work of the Scottish Government, there are many varied types of consultation. However, in general consultation exercises aim to provide opportunities for all those who wish to express their opinions on a proposed area of work to do so in ways which will inform and enhance that work. Consultation exercises may involve seeking views in a number of different ways, such as written papers, public meetings, focus groups, questionnaire exercises or on-line discussion forums

To view current, forthcoming or archive consultations, visit:
www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations

Mapping Exercise of ChooseLife in Scotland

A group of voluntary organisations supported with the SCVO has been asked to carry out a mapping exercise on the impact on people's awareness of Choose Life, and suicide intervention training across Scotland. Part of the work done by ChooseLife is the promotion of Samaritans, Breathing Space, Child Line and other related organisations that play a role in suicide prevention.

The long term outcome of this will hopefully include a reduction in suicide.
Complete the survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/ChooseLifeSurvey

next newsletter

The next CVS Aberdeenshire - Central & South newsletter will come out on the week beginning 29th March 2010.

The deadline for **pre-arranged** contributions for this edition is Monday 22nd March.

We are always looking for local groups across the shire to contribute to our newsletters.

Whether it be to advertise an event, showcase your work, appeal for volunteers or celebrate a successful funding bid - whatever it is, we'd love to hear about it!

If you would like to include any information in future editions, please contact Lindsay Allardyce on 01330 825027 or email Lindsay.Allardyce@cvsa.co.uk

Alternatively, if you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please let us know.

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