



The BOXROOM to expand as part of a major new Scottish Government Initiative

CVSA proposal selected as one of just ten pilot projects across Scotland to help improve delivery of vital public services

CVS Aberdeenshire's innovative Boxroom project is set to broaden its horizons next year - by recruiting and deploying a new team of volunteers at Banchory's Crow's Nest Civic Amenity site.

The volunteers there will persuade and assist members of the public not to throw their old but still valuable household items in a skip, but to donate them "right there on the spot" to the Boxroom so they can be sold or re-used.

And that's not all - staff and volunteers at CVSA were delighted to learn at the start of November that the Scottish Government had chosen this proposal to be part of a major new National pilot project - the Public Social Partnership ('PSP') initiative - looking at how Third Sector organisations could help Local Councils to provide better and more innovative public services to meet the changing needs of Scotland's environment and its



THE BOXROOM

people.

The Government are interested because the amount of reusable furniture and other items we waste has reached alarming proportions. And Aberdeenshire in particular is fast running out of places to put it. The Shire has just one working landfill site - the one hidden in the trees next to the Civic Amenity site at the Crow's Nest in Banchory - and that is now almost completely full.

Expanding CVSA's Boxroom project promises to bring benefits all round - to the Council, to the people of Aberdeenshire and to the environment too.

For more than a decade, the Boxroom has been the place to call when you have goods you no longer need, but don't want to see go to waste. But projects such as ours are still

few and far between - and even where they do exist, far too many people still find it easier just to take their unwanted goods straight to the local tip, where everything just goes in a skip and they can forget about it.

Councils are very limited in what they can do with people's waste once it has been deposited at a Civic Amenity site. But charities and other Third Sector bodies can be much more flexible. The aim of the Scottish Government's PSP initiative is to see how the Voluntary Sector ethos and "the way we get things done" can rejuvenate public services across the country - not just in waste disposal and environmental awareness, but in social care and every other field of public service delivery.

Here in Banchory, CVSA and the Boxroom will be working closely with Aberdeenshire

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contact us...

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 72a High Street, Banchory AB31 5SS tel: 01330 825027
 email: mail@kdvoice.org.uk website: www.kdvoice.org.uk

Standards for Trustees consultation

One of the most important challenges facing third sector organisations is governance. The National Occupational Standards for trustees and management committee members were developed in 2006 to provide guidance on this. Now they are being reviewed and you are invited to take part in the consultation. Visit the website at www.skills-thirdsector.org.uk and click on National Occupational Standards, then Trustee Standards.

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Council's Waste Management team over the coming months to iron out details of how the project will all come together. So watch out for the publicity as this initiative develops. Tell your friends that here in Banchory we all have an opportunity to tackle the appalling amount of waste that our society produces. And if you'd like to take an active part in all this - watch out for the call for volunteers when it comes, probably early in 2010!

Alan Young, Chief Officer, CVS Aberdeenshire - Central and South

OSCR consultation

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) are reviewing the information supplied to them by charities and how they use this. This major initiative is OSCR's Integrated Reporting Project which focuses on the Scottish Charity Register. The aim is to develop the reporting requirements so that these are

more integrated, as well as ensuring the information they gather is of interest and relevance to charities and to the general public.

To get involved with the consultation, visit their website at www.oscr.org.uk/integratedreporting.stm or email info@oscr.org.uk and put 'Integrated Reporting' in the title.

Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland petition gains momentum

A petition launched by SCVO (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations) has attracted over 2,400 signatures since going live on the Downing Street website on 27th October. The petition calls on the government to step in to save Lloyds Foundation which has handed out funds of around £6m each year to the voluntary sector.

Since it was established in 1985, over 12,000 awards have been made to charities working with disadvantaged communities and people across Scotland. Although existing commitments will be honoured, communities across Scotland will be hard hit by the closure of the foundation which has provided over £84 million since it started. The Foundation's ability to continue to support good causes is now under threat, as it relies on a percentage of pre-tax profits from Lloyds

Banking Group for its funds. As the Bank has announced that it will make no profit this year, the future of the Foundation is at risk.

To sign the petition visit the Downing Street website at: petitions.number10.gov.uk/LloydsFoundation/

Age Concern and Help the Aged in Scotland

Age Concern and Help the Aged in Scotland are closing their office in Aberdeen from 27th November. For over 30 years, the office and its staff have worked with and supported older people, older people's groups and partners working with older people in the City and the Shire. A home-based Development worker will be employed whose patch will include Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

In the interim, please direct any queries about the service to Kay Hutcheson, on 0141 420 4001 or email kay.hutcheson@ageconcernandhelptheagedscotland.org.uk

Awards for All update

Awards For All have issued information on their updated application process. From 2nd November 2009, the application form for Awards For All will no longer ask for details of an independent referee to be included. While they haven't removed the requirement completely - Awards For All may still ask some groups for a referee once we have looked at their application – it will make the initial application process quicker and easier for all.

The referee requirement was originally introduced as a measure to counter fraud, but as the processes and checks have improved, the need for all groups to provide a referee

has diminished. They have also taken the opportunity to make some slight improvements to the application form and guidance to make them clearer and have produced a new guide which fully explains requirements once a group have received a conditional offer of grant.

Although they have removed the referee page from the form, the version including this page is still valid for submission and applicants who have already filled the rest of the form in can just leave this section blank. The updated version of the form will be available from the Awards For All website from 2nd November at www.awardsforall.org.uk/scotland.

Cinema in Scotland's Rural Communities



Regional Screen Scotland is the development agency for access to cinemagoing opportunities: improving Moving Image access, participation and learning in Scotland's rural communities.

In 2009, working with HI~Arts and Scottish Screen, they awarded over £114,000 to 27 organisations to support and develop cinema exhibition in

rural communities.

Now Regional Screen Scotland would like to hear from you – groups who are currently exhibiting films, or have ambitions to screen films. They want to know what support you really need, and what you are currently delivering. Please follow this link to a questionnaire for completion: www.regionalscreenscotland.org/networks_development.html, or contact Lynne Stanford at 0778 943 1720 or lynne@regionalscreenscotland.org. The information gathered here will inform their future projects, funding streams and the support and training they would look to offer.

fundinginbrief

The Scottish Arts Council Training and continuing professional development fund provides grants of between £500 - £5,000 for training or continuing professional development opportunities to organisations which lead to infrastructural development within their organisation or the wider music sector. Applications must be submitted at least 4 weeks before the project start date. Deadline 15 February 2010. For further information visit www.scot-tisharts.org.uk/1/funding/apply/org-anisations/music.aspx#training

The Gannochy Trust have funding for charities through two themes: Inspiring Young People. and Improving the Quality of Life of the Disadvantaged and Vulnerable. For more information visit their website at www.gannochytrust.org.uk or Phone 01738 620653.

Funding from Aberdeenshire local area committees Each committee has limited funds for:

- Rural Youth Transport Grants (up to 100% of costs)
- Small community projects (max. cost £2500, will cover up to 75% of project costs)
- Large community projects (max. cost £5000, will cover up to 75% of project costs)
- Young people's projects (max. cost £1000, will cover up to 100% of project costs)
- Problem solving grants (max. cost £1000, will cover up to 100% of project costs)
- Tourism grants (max. cost £3000, will cover up to 100% of project costs)

For more information on these sources of funding determine visit the Aberdeenshire Council website at: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/funding/AberdeenshireCouncil-fundingfromlocalareacommittees.asp

..training..

CVS Training Initiative
33/34 The Square, Ellon
Tel: 01358 722205
Email: admin@cvstraininginitiative.org.uk

FEB-MAR 2010 COURSES
Dates and venues to be confirmed

Safetalk

Elementary Food Hygiene

Disability Equality

Discipline & Grievance/Termination of Employment and letting volunteers go

Health & Safety Awareness

Appointed Persons First Aid

Accounting Requirements for Charities/Duties of Trustees under OSCR

Please call if you would like to book a place on any of the above courses or require further information.

Would your organisation like to involve and manage young volunteers more effectively?

FREE Training on

14th December 2009 at The New Hope Trust, Peterhead & 12th January 2010 at the Acorn Centre, Inverurie
Both courses 10-3 with lunch and travel expenses provided.

More info and booking contact: Morag.Thomson@vcab-erdeenshire.org.uk

Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme Consultation

As mentioned in previous newsletters, in 2010, the Scottish Government is introducing a new membership scheme that will replace and improve upon the current Disclosure arrangements for people who work with vulnerable groups. The PVG Scheme is Scotland's response to the principal recommendation of the Bichard Inquiry Report which was undertaken following the tragic murders in Soham in 2002. Having already consulted on the scheme in 2007, the Scottish Government is now consulting on some of the statutory instruments which will underpin the new scheme including the fees which will be charged and also draft guidance for organisations which work with children and protected adults.

For further information about the PVG Scheme, and to contribute to the consultation visit <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvglegislation/> and click on 'Consultation 2009'.

Anti-bullying Consultation

The Scottish Government are seeking views on the current strengths and best practices for anti-bullying in Scotland. Alison Davies, Chair of SABS, The Scottish Anti-Bullying Steering Group (SABS) said "This [consultation] will help to shape services and support as we work together towards a shared goal. There is a great deal of good work going on across Scotland to tackle bullying, however we also need to know where there are gaps and capture views, experiences and new thinking from across a range of sectors".

To view and contribute to the consultation, visit www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/11/13154751/0



CVSA Charities Fair



Thanks to everyone who attended our Charities Fair in Stonehaven Town Hall on Saturday 21st November. Many local charities came along to raise awareness and money and over £500 was made on the day which will go towards many valuable local projects. Many thanks to everyone involved in the organisation of the event.

Steps for Stress

Scots are being encouraged to take simple steps to tackle their everyday stress to help avoid developing more serious problems, as part of a Scottish Government campaign launched in November.

Steps for Stress aims to help people recognise the signs of everyday stress, and offers advice and information on how to take action to help stop it in its tracks - such as being more active, talking to someone or helping other people.

Three quarters of people surveyed in government campaign research admit to experiencing stress, but only one in four feels happy to talk about it. Public Health Minister Shona Robison launched Steps for Stress by taking part in a meditation walk at the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Health Initiative (CHI). Ms Robison said:

"Stress can affect everyone.

We all have busy lives today, juggling work and family commitments, but by knowing how to spot the signs we can help ourselves feel better.

"If the causes and symptoms of stress are allowed to snowball, they can risk leading to other problems like unhealthy eating, drinking too much or heavy smoking.

"Steps for Stress shows us that even small steps like going for a walk - perhaps through an organisation like CHI - talking to a friend or doing something for someone else can make a big difference to how we feel."

One of the highlights of the campaign will be a six-part prime-time STV series, *Make Me Happier*, sponsored by the Scottish Government and presented by Lorraine Kelly and Angus Purden, presenter of the People's Postcode Lottery. Visit the Steps for Stress website at www.infoscotland.org.uk/stepsforstress/

Social Return on Investment (SROI)

Social Return on Investment  Social Return on Investment across the third sector in

(SROI) is a framework for measuring a concept of value that is much broader than simply financial. It tells the story of how change is being created by measuring social, environmental and economic outcomes and uses monetary values to represent them.

The SROI Project is a Scottish Government funded programme designed to develop, promote and support the use of

Scotland.

SROI makes sense to funders and investors as it presents your organisation's case by demonstrating the change that happens to the stakeholders. Some third sector organisations that have used it have argued a better business case, and gained more investment/funding as a result. Visit www.sroiproject.org.uk to find out more.

Green Tools

New 'green' web pages have been added to the SCVO website to provide voluntary organisations with direction and advice on green issues. Included is a new, simple, carbon accounting tool to help you to monitor and reduce your organisation's energy use - and your bills too! Visit the site at: www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/GreenAgenda/GreenHome.aspx?g=ga

Winter Celebration Grant 2009



Age Concern and Help the Aged is able to offer grants of up to £500 to clubs for older people. Voluntary or charitable clubs for older people in the UK are eligible to apply, and whose annual turnover is less than £50,000 per annum. Groups do not have to be a registered charity, but do have to be a properly established group with a set of rules and own bank or building society account. Grants are available towards the cost of winter celebrations, outings, or one-off events - for example, theatre trips, day outings, parties, and dinners. For more information visit www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/grant_giving.asp

dates for your diary

Farmers Market, Stonehaven Saturday 5th December

Make a bird feeder to help the birds survive the winter. There is a small charge to cover the cost of the bird food. book through Archaeolink on 01466 851500

Monymusk Arts Trust Christmas Craft Week 5th - 13th December, 10am - 4pm daily Monymusk Arts Centre

Come and choose your Christmas gifts from a unique display made by local crafters and artists. Bypass the busy shops, browse at leisure and find something original. Enjoy the experience. Free entry. Free parking

Wizard of Oz - the Pantomime 9th - 12th December, Stonehaven Town Hall Cost: £9 adults, £6 concessions

Stonehaven Ury Players present the much-loved tale of Dorothy's quest to return to Kansas (with the help of Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion). Tickets available from the Rose Bowl, Barclay Street, Stonehaven from November.

Archaeolink Christmas Decoration Workshop 13th December, 10am - 12 noon

Festive Farmers Market, Banchory Saturday 19th December

Stained Glass Workshops 23rd & 24th January 2010, Mill Farm, Kemnay Cost: £130 for two day workshop

Weekend Stained Glass Workshops which are designed primarily for beginners, but can easily accommodate folk with previous experience. To book a place, call Gordon Watt on 07525055833 or email gordon@morningglass.co.uk

Get Blasted! 24th January 2010, 10am - 1pm, Stevenson Forvie Centre

Brace yourself for a walk in the perishing cold - a trek around the northern half of Forvie Nature Reserve. Please bring appropriate clothing, food and hot drink. All welcome, children must be accompanied. Please book in advance.

The Charity Shop

Excellent range of clothing and bric-a-brac for resale. Donations are gratefully accepted

Opening Hours:
Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm

Volunteers welcome - contact the shop at:
16a Bridge Street, Banchory Tel: 01330 825714



THE BOXROOM Recycle+Reuse

THE BOXROOM recycles household goods, by direct sales to the public or by providing essential furniture for those in need

OPEN: Monday - Friday 10am - 2.30pm & Saturday 9am - 1pm

Unit 5, Tillybrake Industrial Estate, Banchory AB31 5UN
(in front of the Royal Mail sorting office)
Tel: 01330 823800

...online...useful websites...online...

www.creativewasteexchange.org

An Aladdin's cave of low cost, good quality craft materials and stationary. All stock has been donated by local businesses and householders and would otherwise have gone to landfill. Pay a small annual membership and your group can have access to their extensive stock.

www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/

Ouch! is a website from the BBC that reflects the lives and experiences of disabled people. It has articles, blogs, a very busy messageboard and an award-winning downloadable radio show (The Ouch Podcast). It's aimed at

those with a stakehold in disability: family, friends, professionals and, rather importantly, disabled people themselves.

www.roundtable.org.uk

Round Table is all about fun, friendship and trying something new and exciting. There are many benefits to becoming a Round Tabler: taking part in debate and organising functions and events will build leadership skills and give you public speaking abilities. Being a member of Round Table can help you enhance your personal strengths like no other organisation. Visit this website to find out where your local Round Table meet and get involved.