

NEWS

New Community Kitchen in Inverurie



A new community training kitchen is being developed in Inverurie through the Inverurie Health Improvement Group, a joint working group set up following the With Inclusion in Mind workshops in 2009, to promote healthy eating and social inclusion in Inverurie and which is supported by Garioch Community Planning Group. The kitchen was identified as a means to support vulnerable individuals and groups with positive nutrition messages and cooking skills and as a means to promote inclusion and build confidence.

"Confidence to Cook Training for Trainers" and food hygiene training will be provided by NHS Grampian to give service providers the skills to support their users and clients. The community training kitchen will be based in the garage area of the Wyness Hall in Inverurie. Funding has been secured for the development of the facility from the Fairer Scotland Fund,

Garioch Community Planning Group, Childcare Partnership and Health Improvement Fund and aims to be completed in December 2011. To date there are 13 local groups looking to make use of the kitchen - some for training purposes (and in this we can include Independent Living Skills courses) others for inclusion including a local church group looking to hold weekly "cafes" for those who are "marginalised". If you are interested in making use of this community facility please contact:

Carolyn Lamb, Public Health co-ordinator (Garioch, Formartine) on 01467 672704,
Email: carolynlamb@nhs.net

or Jill Sowden, Garioch Community Planning Officer on 01467 628338,
Email: Jill.Sowden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

State of the sector survey

In October 2011 SCVO conducted research with the Scottish third sector. 275 organisations responded to the annual State of the Sector survey. Many of the respondents are unsure about the future, uncertain over funding and what future government policy might hold.

Download the summary here:

http://www.scvo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/SCVO_StateoftheSector_Report.pdf

Scottish third sector key statistics

SCVO have published further analysis of data collected earlier this year. The figures show that the economic crisis is beginning to affect charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises - with these organisations seeing a £96m drop in income between 2009-2010. Rising inflation, teamed with static income means that the sector has to do more with less, and in some cases organisations are dipping into reserves to fund crucial projects.

Download the Scottish Third Sector Key Statistics here:

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Scottish-Third-Sector-Key-Statistics-Oct-2011.pdf>

Grampian Opportunities

Project Coordinator

12 hours per week

(Salary £20,651 per annum pro rata)

This post is grant funded and time limited to 31 October 2012

The GO Creative Short Break Project aims to deliver a bespoke short breaks information service to carers and people who need care. The postholder will work closely in the recruitment, training and support of volunteers, and the role will involve the development, delivery and day to day management of the project.

The post requires an enhanced level of disclosure and membership of the PVG Scheme.

To apply email info@grampianopportunities.org.uk or call 01467 629675 for an application pack.

Closing date for return of applications Friday 04 November 2011, with interviews commencing the week of 21 November 2011.



The Commonwealth Games - involving communities!

As part of the Commonwealth Games Legacy Programme, the Scottish Government has commissioned SCDC to work with community organisations across Scotland to support them to use the Games as a catalyst for building on their work to develop activities and projects that involve local people, increase local community action and support the achievement of better health and social outcomes. Working with local Legacy Leads and partner agencies, SCDC will support community organisations to involve people in local conversations on what they would like to see as a legacy for their own communities, and to engage better at a strategic level in order to get their message across.

If you are a community organisation, or know of a community organisation, who would like to participate in this programme and would like more information, please contact Olivia Hanley on olivia@scdc.org.uk

You can also find more information at
<http://www.scdc.org.uk/commonwealth-games-involving-communities/>

Postgraduate Diploma in Community Learning & Development

The University of Aberdeen in partnership with local Community Learning and Development Managers is offering a Postgraduate Diploma in Community Learning and Development. It has received approval from CeVe, the professional body for Community Learning and Development. The program will begin in January and will be a workplace based route to the professional qualification.

Participants will study at the same time as being employed or working on a voluntary basis.

The course will last for approximately 18 months and it is expected that approximately 15 hours per week will be devoted to the Programme. Overall cost of the Programme is £2,800.

For further information and an application form, please contact:

Community Learning & Development Programme Secretary, 5th Floor School of Education,
University of Aberdeen, MacRobert Building, King's College, Aberdeen AB24 5UA.

Tel: 01224 274629 Email: pgcld@abdn.ac.uk

Talk Action have a new website - www.talkaction.org

Talk Action promote equality, opportunity, diversity and a healthy environment for communities in both urban and rural settings. They deliver community based projects and seek to enable community cohesion and give people the skills, confidence and motivation to combat socio-economic and cultural barriers they may face. They also run training courses focused on social and environmental subjects throughout the year in London, Edinburgh, Dublin, Bristol and Brussels.

Self Management for Long Term Conditions

NHS Grampian, in partnership with the voluntary sector and people with long term conditions, has developed a self management campaign to help people living with long term conditions and their carers to know who to turn to and find out about the range of local services available to support them. Self management supports and encourages people to become well informed about what is right for their condition and right for them. The campaign builds on the successful evaluation of the "Know Who To Turn To" initiative, which signposts the public to the most appropriate service for an injury or illness.

For more information, please visit:
www.know-who-to-turn-to.com/selfmanagement

Exploring the Rights of Children & Young People bill - Consultation Seminars

Consultation seminars have been organised to explore Scottish Governments consultation on the Rights of Children and Young People Bill. The seminars will include discussion on various aspects of the proposed bill. The Aberdeen seminar will be on:

24th November 2011

South St Nicholas Church Hall, Kincorth Circle, Kincorth,
Aberdeen, AB12 5NX (combined with Aberdeen Children's Service Network)

To book a place at the Aberdeen seminar, please contact Sarah Irvine,
Network Co-ordinator at ACVO on sirvine@acvo.org.uk

New web portal for youth health

www.getthelowdown.co.uk

This new website is the result of a partnership between Young Scot and the Scottish Government. The Lowdown provides information and confidential advice about health concerns for teenagers and features a comprehensive 'Contacts Directory', listing over 500 local health services from across Scotland. The website is backed up by a free and confidential phone line (0808 802 4444) that young people can access to get further information personalised to their needs.



New Opening Hours at the Boxroom & Magpie shops

The Boxroom and Magpie shops have now extended their opening hours! Both shops which are situated at Units 4 & 5, Tillybrake Industrial Estate in Banchory will now be open from 10am - 4pm Monday to Saturday. The shops are jam-packed with good quality second hand furniture, household goods and bric-a-brac - so if you're looking for a bargain, pop in!



National Minimum Wage Increase

The hourly rate for workers aged 21 and over increased from £5.93 to £6.08 on 1 October 2011. Rates for younger workers and apprentices, and accommodation offset rates have also risen.

Big Lottery consultation

The Government is carrying out a consultation on proposed new policy directions for the Big Lottery Fund. The Big Lottery Fund, which was set up in 2004, is the largest distributor of funding from the National Lottery to good causes and aims to bring real improvements to communities, and to the lives of people most in need.

The consultation invites views from a wide range of stakeholders which include the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector and other government departments.

The consultation closes on Friday 18 November 2011.

To take part in the consultation visit:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/consultation-proposed-new-big-lottery-fund-policy-directions

Volunteer Buddy Service expanding

Carr Gomm (name recently changed from Carr-Gomm Scotland) is extending its Buddy Service to the South of Aberdeenshire – in particular around the Banchory and Stonehaven areas. The service is based on the “supported volunteering” model, and aims to help people maintain their recovery from problems with alcohol or drugs. Those using the service are matched with a “buddy” who will accompany them whilst they volunteer – providing the support and encouragement needed to get started and make it a success.



Supporting People & Communities

A crucial part of the service is finding volunteer placements in mainstream volunteer involving organisations (VIOs). By taking on users of this service – VIOs will be giving a vote of confidence in people who want to contribute to their communities and overcome their problems. They will also get an extra pair of hands in the form of the “buddy” who will take part in volunteering activities too. Buddies will be fully trained on how to support the person they buddying, and in addition Carr Gomm will be working with VIOs other community groups to provide advice and guidance on how people in recovery can be supported.

For more information about this service, please visit Carr Gomm’s website at www.carr-gommScotland.org.uk, e-mail David Polfreman, Community Development Worker or call 07825 403254.

Fuel poverty

The Scottish Government has announced a 35 per cent increase for fuel poverty and energy efficiency programmes to help people struggling to heat their homes. In addition, Cabinet Secretary Alex Neil said an extra £5 million will be ploughed into the Energy Assistance Package (EAP) this year, helping Scots through this winter. That will take the overall spending to tackle Fuel Poverty and energy efficiency in 2011-12 to £53 million.

The announcement comes shortly after the Scottish Government confirmed it will extend the Energy Assistance Package to carers, a move that will benefit thousands of households as this winter approaches.

EVENTS & TRAINING

Masterclass on Coaching The Training Annexe, Woodhill House, Monday 28 November 2011

This is one of a series of collaborative learning events facilitated jointly by Aberdeen City Council; Aberdeenshire Council; NHS Grampian; Grampian Fire and Rescue Service; Grampian Police the Robert Gordon University; ACVO and the CVS Training Initiative. Participants will take part in a master class on coaching, delivered by an expert in the field, Peter Hill. There will be opportunities for skills practice and development as well as time to network with colleagues from other public and voluntary sector organisations. Following attendance at this event, participants will have:

- greater awareness of a coaching style of management
 - some theoretical background to coaching
- an understanding of how and where to use coaching skills
- had an opportunity to practice their own coaching skills
- had an opportunity to network with public and voluntary sector partners

For further information, or to book a place, contact:
admin@cvstraininginitiative.org.uk, Tel:01358 722205
or nhowley@acvo.org.uk, Tel: 01224 686057

Free Training to Help Your Business Grow - How to win (more) Tenders and Influence People

Tuesday 8th November 2011; 9.30am - 4.00pm with registration, tea and coffee from 09.00am @ Aberdeenshire Council HQ, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen AB16 5GB. The second workshop will be on Tuesday 22nd November. (A light lunch will also be provided)

Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils are hosting a How to Win (more) Tenders and Influence People training event. The training is provided through the Supplier Development Programme and will consist of two full day sessions. How to Win (more) Tenders is designed for companies with experience of bidding for work and want to improve their tender performance, quality of their bids or aspire to bidding for bigger contracts. The event is free of charge and places will be allocated on a first come basis. If you would like to find out more information about the programme outline, register and book a place on the programme please visit:

[www.sdpscotland.co.uk/events/events-list/how-to-win-\(more\)-tenders-and-influence-people-aberdeenshire--aberdeen-city-day-1.aspx](http://www.sdpscotland.co.uk/events/events-list/how-to-win-(more)-tenders-and-influence-people-aberdeenshire--aberdeen-city-day-1.aspx)

For more information please contact:
Gemma Brown, e: gemma.brown@drs.glasgow.gov.uk or t: 0141 287 7277.

Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace 7th December, London

This thought provoking training day is designed to help you to gain a detailed understanding of the issues surrounding environmental sustainability and develop a meaningful action plan that will have a real and positive impact on your organisation and the environment. Through a combination of presentations, workshops, group discussions and real life case studies, this course provides an invaluable resource for organisations looking to tackle their environmental performance.

For bookings and further information, please contact: Talk Action, Mesha Sutherland
Tel: 0207 324 4774 Email: info@talkaction.org

EVENTS & TRAINING

Shire Connections - Networking Lunch How to Benefit your Business through Social Media 11th November, Gordon Arms Hotel, Huntly, 12 - 2pm

Do you know your Facebook from your Twitter? Would you like to improve the way you market your business online? The next in the Shire Connections series, delivered by Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce, will give you the opportunity to learn practical advice and skills on marketing your business through a range of social media channels, helping you to manage your online reputation and boost sales.

Book your place online at www.agcc.co.uk/events or contact the Events Team on 01224 343901 or email events@agcc.co.uk

Aberdeenshire Signposting Project A.S.I.S.T (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) Course Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th November, Aberdeen Arts Centre

Spaces available for this course at a cost of £75 per person including all training materials, refreshments and lunch on both days. To book a place or for further information please contact:

Karen Nicoll, Project Co-ordinator at:
karennicoll@btconnect.com
or telephone 01466 793284

Joint Marr Community Ward Forums and Volunteer Co-ordinators Forums - November 2011

All forums begin with sandwiches and hot drinks at 6.45 for a 7pm start. In summary, the aim of the November forums is to bring together community councils, community groups, volunteer involving organisations and public service providers so that we can all find out about the wide range of voluntary activities that are going on in the different wards, share information and make some useful contacts.

For further information please contact:
Lizzy Shepherd on behalf of the Marr Community Planning Group
Marr Area Partnership Development Officer
Tel: 07786 579426 www.marrareapartnership.org.uk

Infant Mental Health Conference - Investing in the Future 7th March 2012, Menzies Hotel, Irvine, North Ayrshire

This event will focus on 0 - 3 years and the need for a strong foundation in mental health and wellbeing from the very start of a child's life. It is recognised that the period before birth and in the early years of life have a profound impact on the physical, social, cognitive and emotional development of a child's life which, in turn, affects their chances in later life.

The conference will highlight effective practice, raise the strategic profile of infant mental health and identify challenges for the future and possible ways to overcome these. Attendance at this conference is a must for those working with or on behalf of children and families.

The event is supported by NHS Health Scotland and is delivered in partnership with NHS Fife and NHS Lanarkshire. Please keep this date free. Further details and booking forms will be available soon. The conference is free but a cancellation fee will apply.

FUNDING

Nominet Trust £250k Challenge

Launched this week, the Nominet Trust £250k Challenge is supporting digital entrepreneurs over the age of 55 who have a viable idea for an internet start-up project which tackles the social problems afflicting senior citizens, and helps older people access the internet.

The programme was launched following research showing there is an urgent need for more web-based solutions designed for older people, by older people - as senior citizens are more likely to seek support from their peers than from younger age groups. Grants of between £1,000 and £100,000 may be awarded towards projects costing up to £250,000 in total.

Anyone in the UK who is over the age of 55 with a good idea for an internet start-up which uses the web to address specific social problems facing older people may apply. The applicant may be operating as a business, charity, community interest company, working at a university or within the public sector. The deadline for first stage applications is 1st February 2012. Those shortlisted must submit their full applications by 1 March 2012.

For more information visit:

www.nominettrust.org.uk/nominet-trust-%C2%A3250k-challenge

Tullo community fund re-opened for 2012

Organisations in the area around Tullo Wind Farm near Laurencekirk in Aberdeenshire are being invited to submit their applications to the annual community benefit fund set up to support community projects. The fund distributes £17,000 annually - £1,000 per megawatt of installed capacity for the wind farm developed by Eneco Wind UK. The fund is administered by the Mearns Area Partnership, which is inviting applications for projects that should benefit residents in six community council areas: Arbuthnott, Benholm and Johnshaven, Gourdon, Inverbervie, Mearns and St Cyrus.

Susie Brown from Mearns Area Partnership, says, "Last year we had 23 applications, with ten being awarded money from the annual community benefit fund. Each of the awarded applications really benefitted from the fund and people were incredibly appreciative for the financial support they received."

Daniel Badcock, Development Manager for Tullo Wind Farm, says, "The Tullo community fund has truly benefitted worthwhile projects in a close vicinity to the wind farm. We hope next year's fund will continue to provide the same benefits to similar community-run schemes in the local area."

Applications should be submitted by the end of January 2012, and will then be assessed by a grants panel made up of representatives from the local community councils and partnerships. Successful applicants will receive their grants in April 2012. The fund will welcome applications for projects that:

- ◆ Benefit children and vulnerable people
- ◆ Involve community buildings or regeneration
 - ◆ Boost the environment or wildlife
- ◆ Have health, education, heritage or sustainability benefits.

Applicants need to be able to demonstrate a clear need for their projects together with community use and involvement, and value for money.

Full guidelines and applications are available from the offices of the Mearns Area Partnership at 44 High Street, Laurencekirk or can be downloaded from www.meansareapartnership.org.uk or www.tullowindfarm.co.uk.

FUNDING

Short Breaks Fund

Time to Live (2011-2012)



The Scottish Government has made the Short Breaks Fund available to help support and sustain carers (including young carers) through enabling better access to short breaks or respite care. It recognises that not all carers are able to access short breaks and the vital role breaks play in sustaining carers and those they care for.

It also recognises the space provided by short breaks which enables people to live normal, fulfilled and happy lives. Breaks give carers and those they care for space to rest, to be themselves, or be refreshed through outside interests, holidays or other activities – spending some quality time together or apart. The Fund will seek to support a 'preventative' approach to short break provision, recognising the importance of planned breaks in promoting good health and well being.

VSA are delighted to announce that they have been successful in a bid for funding from the Short Breaks Fund for carers in Aberdeenshire. To get more information on Short Breaks or to apply for funding please either:

- ◆ Contact your local Carers Support and Development Worker
- ◆ Phone Aberdeenshire Carers Services on 01779 490 894
 - ◆ Visit our website at www.vsa.org.uk
 - ◆ Email aberdeenshire.carers@vsa.org.uk

For Young Carers funding contact Tanya Morrison, CAIRScotland on: 01467 620582

Swimathon Foundation Grants

Do you know a community group that is keen to make a splash in the swimming pool?
Then why not suggest they apply for a Swimathon Foundation grant?

The Foundation is offering grants of between £300 and £2,500 to swimming pools, community organisations and charities who can demonstrate how funding will allow them to help more people participate in and enjoy swimming and to make swimming more accessible. Whether you're a scout leader that would like to take your troop for a day at an open air pool, a healthy living group wanting to try out Aquaerobics for the first time or a scuba diving club desperate for new equipment, a grant could be the helping hand you need!

For more information and to apply online please visit the website: www.swimathon.org/foundation. The first round of applications closes on 12 December 2011 so make sure you pass on the word to anyone who may be interested. If you have any questions about the grants programme or the Swimathon Foundation please don't hesitate to contact them on info@swimathonfoundation.org or 0845 459 9016.

Young Scot – Creative Enterprise Fund

The Creative Enterprise Fund is a joint Creative Scotland and Young Scot initiative. It helps young people, aged 15-22, to carry out activities that will allow them to flourish within the creative industries. The Fund can offer awards of up to £200 for individuals or £750 for groups. Eligible activities might include running local youth dance classes; managing theatre productions or help to get a band up and running.

For more information, please visit: www.youngscot.org/info/198-creative-enterprise-fund

FUNDING

Funding for Environmentally Friendly Projects



The Green Insurance Company has announced that its Grimpe Green Grants Scheme will open for applications in October 2011. Through the scheme the Green Insurance Company will be seeking applications from individuals and not-for profit organisations for funding for environmentally friendly projects. The Green Insurance Company have up to £40,000 to give away to environmentally friendly projects.

They are offering funds of up to £2,000 to small projects and organisations with a special £10,000 grant available to one project voted for by the public. The type of projects that can be supported for example include:

- ♦ Raising awareness of environmental issues
- ♦ Educating the younger generation so that they develop good habits early
- ♦ To improve the energy efficiency of buildings.

For more information, please visit:
www.greeninsurancegiving.co.uk/grants.php

Clare Duffield Poetry and Literary Awards

The awards are worth a total of £1m over five years, 2011 to 2015, with individual awards ranging from £1,000 to £10,000. They aim to provide children and young people with opportunities to experience poetry and literature in exciting and compelling ways, in and out of school.



Deadline: 30th March 2012

For more information, please visit www.clareduffield.org.uk

Tap Water Awards



Grants of between £300 and £5,000 are available to voluntary or community organisations, schools, parish or town councils for projects that significantly reduce their reliance on single-use plastics and the amount of plastic waste. The funding which is being made through the Tap Water Awards aims to support projects that develop new solutions to replace pre-existing systems that rely on plastic, that promote the use of tap water, or other related themes. Projects can have a community, local or national impact.

Organisations wishing to apply are strongly advised to contact tapwater.org before applying.
For more information, please visit: www.tapwater.org/grants

Junior Climate Challenge Fund

The Junior Climate Challenge Fund (JCCF) is part of the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF). The JCCF aims to increase the proportion of the CCF which is supporting under 18's to become engaged and involved in a low carbon future. All other criteria of the CCF still apply - working to reduce carbon emissions, including the community (of young people in this case) at the heart of the decision making of the project and leaving a sustainable legacy for the future. The deadline for applications is 5pm on 2nd December 2011. More info is available here:

<http://ccf.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/overview.aspx> and the Scottish Government press release is at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/10/05091832>

FUNDING

National Science and Engineering Week Kick-Start Fund for Schools New application deadline 4th November 2011, 5pm.

A £200 grant to 500 eligible schools in the UK is available through Creative Cultures Scotland, along with access to loads of free resources to help take the work out of organising your own NSEW events and activities. To be eligible for a grant schools must fit into at least one of the following criteria:

- have a high proportion (30% or more) of pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds
- have a high proportion (30% or more) of pupils eligible for free school meals
- be a small school based in a remote and rural location.

Online applications available at:

www.britishtscienceassociation.org/web/NSEW/NSEWFunding/smallgrants.htm



Kellogg's Swim Active Programme

Similar to above, the Kellogg's Swim Active Programme has made Swim Active grants available to non for profit organisations including community organisations and enterprises. The programme is offering grants that support any aquatic activity which enhances motivation, removes barriers and increases participation in the sport.

The closing date for applications is the 1st December 2011 and more info can be found on the fund website at:
www.swimming.org/get-involved/kelloggs-swim-active

People's Health Trust

Funded through the new Health Lottery, the People's Health Trust has announced that its Healthy Communities Small Grants Programme is to open in October. Through its Funding programmes, the Peoples Health Trusts aims to award around £50 million per year to support health-related projects in England, Scotland and Wales. The Trust aims to do this by supporting projects that tackle the early causes of ill health.

The logo for People's Health Trust, consisting of the text 'People's Health Trust' in white on an orange rounded rectangular background.

People's
Health
Trust

Read more here: www.peopleshealthtrust.org.uk

Vodafone World of Difference programme



The Vodafone World of Difference programme will fund 500 people to work for a charity of their choice in the UK, for two months full time or four months part time. Placements start in March 2012. Last year's winners started their placements in March, and have donated themselves to charities all over the UK. They've lent their considerable expertise to diverse causes like children and young people, the environment, animal welfare, poverty relief, health and the arts.

To find out more, visit: <http://worldofdifference.vodafone.co.uk/default.aspx>

FUNDING

£7 million for third sector

Scotland's third sector has been given a 'massive boost' with the launch of two new programmes to help enterprising organisations grow and operate more efficiently. The £3 million Just Enterprise programme will deliver a wide range of business support to social entrepreneurs and third sector organisations across Scotland. It will lead to the creation of an online hub where organisations can go for support and assistance. A further £4 million pounds will be provided through the Enterprise Growth Fund. This will see grants of between £25,000 and £200,000 awarded to enterprising third sector organisations with the most sustainable and ambitious business plans.

To view press release visit: www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/07/18120453

Twitter Lottery

This is only lottery system of its kind, offering Twitter users the chance to win cash prizes each week and contribute to charity at the same time. Launched in mid-October, the draw needs to attract 100,000 followers before it starts to give away a weekly prize draw, based on a fixed percentage of how many people follow the lottery. So if 100,000 people are following then 2,000 will be given away. However, at present Twotto is far from reaching its goal with just over 400 followers. The prize draw is funded by advertisers who will be allowed to tweet followers up to five times a day.

Find out more at www.twotto.org or follow them at @NationalTwotto

Cashback for Communities

Up to £30,000 is available through the Youth Work Fund and a total of £500,000 through the anti-violence fund for projects addressing violence in Scotland among young people ages 10 to 19. Small grants of up to £2,000 are also available to The Scout Association, Girl Guiding Scotland, Boys' Brigade, The Girls' Brigade in Scotland, Clubs for Young People (Scotland) and Youth Scotland, the network of Youth Clubs and Groups in Scotland.

The next deadline for applications is 1st December.

Visit:

www.youthscotland.org.uk/projects/cashback-small-grants-scheme.htm or call 0131 554 2561

The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund

The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund is a grant making registered charity which was established primarily to aid the research into learning disability and to aid the care and relief of those affected by learning disability by making grants to voluntary organisations working in this field.

They consider under learning disability the conditions generally referred to as severe learning difficulties, together with autism. In this area, they consider projects concerning children or adults. Learning disability, thus defined, is their priority for funding. Baily Thomas do not give grants for research into or care of those with mental illness or dyslexia.

Funding is available only to organisations within the UK.

Grants will not normally be awarded to individuals.

Visit: www.bailythomas.org.uk or email: info@bailythomas.org.uk

CONSULTATIONS & PETITIONS

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.

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

OSCR launches its first Public Focus Strategy

On 3 October 2011 the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) launched a consultation on its new Public Focus Strategy, and is keen to hear from beneficiaries of charities and those who use charity services, now or in the future. Responding to new requirements under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (2010 Act), this strategy aims to develop and improve on how OSCR involves users (charities and beneficiaries) in its scrutiny functions. OSCR's proposals can be viewed at www.oscr.org.uk. There are eight consultation questions and comments are invited until 23 December 2011.

A quick way to have your say

Had experience of NHS services recently? Want to offer some feedback, suggestions or thanks? Want to see what others are saying too? Then Patient Opinion might interest you. Patient Opinion is a not-for-profit social enterprise, which uses the power of the web to carry your voice, into the heart of health services. It provides a web site where anyone can share their recent experience of local health services, and see what others are saying. Stories can be from patients, carers, service user or staff and you can submit them directly online or by post or telephone. The system is totally confidential and your privacy is one of Patient Opinion's primary concerns.

Submit your story at www.patientopinion.org.uk, telephone 0845 113 0012 or write to Freepost Patient Opinion.

next newsletter

The next CVS Aberdeenshire - Central & South newsletter will come out on the week beginning 29th November 2011.

The deadline for **pre-arranged** contributions for this edition is Monday 21st November 2011.

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.

This newsletter is produced by CVS Aberdeenshire - Central & South and is available on request in larger print. CVS Aberdeenshire Central and South is a charitable company limited by guarantee. Company number: 137343. Scottish Charity Number: SC014223. Registered office: 72a High Street, Banchory AB31 5SS

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