

York Voluntary Voice

The Newsletter of
York Council for
Voluntary Service

March 2010



Inside this issue:

<i>Local News</i>	2 - 5
<i>National News</i>	5 - 6
<i>Funding</i>	6 - 9
<i>Volunteering</i>	9 - 11
<i>Resources</i>	11 - 13
<i>Training</i>	13 - 14

How will cuts in public sector budgets affect the third sector in York?

Friday 16th April, 9.30 - 1.00 including lunch, Priory Street Centre

We may not have seen significant cuts to local third sector funding yet - but could this be round the corner?

How will the restructuring of the Council affect partnership working - will it be harder to work together?

Many local organisations have experienced increased demand for their services as a result of the recession - how are they coping?

York CVS is inviting all local voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to a half day event to explore these and related questions, and to work together to find solutions to some of the challenges.

This event will provide opportunities to:

share information about the impact of the recession, & statutory budget cuts in particular.

- **share thinking** about what the sector can do to **reduce the impact** of these.
- consider the kind of **support** local organisations would like York CVS to provide in relation to this – to aid planning and prioritisation of our work
- identify '**key messages**' for **public sector partners**
- **meet the new CVS Chief Executive, Angela Harrison**

All welcome, please register your interest on the enclosed booking form or by contacting CVS Reception.

PCT Funding

If you currently receive PCT funding, you may have recently received a letter informing you that funding for the coming financial year was only agreed for 6 months and referring to an agreement with North Yorkshire County Council. The letters were sent out in error. York CVS has taken this up with the PCT and a revised letter will be issued by the PCT shortly

Beyond the Centre

Also on **Friday 16th April, from 1 - 3pm** - we are providing an opportunity for you to find out about the latest range of practical services available from York CVS, aimed at supporting organisations to keep essential costs low or to help with income generation.

We now have a wide range of conference, outdoor and fundraising equipment available for hire, which will be on view at this event, plus some specialist printing services. We are also able to offer support to other community buildings, for example carpet cleaning, PAT electrical testing, power jet equipment and indoor scaffolding.

For full details see page 15, and drop in on 16th April!

Other York CVS events coming soon:

Volunteering Network meeting, Friday 19th March 1pm - 4pm including lunch. Find out about new funding for volunteering, help plan York's exciting activities for Volunteers Week (1 - 7th June), and take a look at the resources available for loan to help you make the most of

York's Year of Volunteering.

York Youth Community Action pilot Open Meeting, Monday 22nd March 2 - 4pm. Hear about the plans for spending £1.38 million DCSF funding to inspire York's 14 - 16 year olds to take part in volunteering, and find out how your organisation can get involved.

Farewell to Colin

Thursday 29th April, 5 - 6 pm.

Colin Stroud, York CVS Chief Executive, is retiring at the end of April and all friends and colleagues from the voluntary and statutory sectors will be very welcome to join us for this official 'goodbye'. More details soon - please put the date in your diary.

Further details about all the above are available from York CVS Reception, 01904 621133, yorkcvs@yorkcvs.org.uk
All events are at the Priory Street Centre.

York CVS staff vacancy

Jim Melvin, our Office Administrator, has decided to leave York CVS in May to set up a dog training business with his wife. We are all very sorry to be losing Jim who has played a vital role at Priory Street Centre for the past 7 years.

We are currently seeking to fill the vacancy that this has created.

Launching the voluntary sector forum on self-directed support

Through the Autumn and Winter York CVS and City of York Council have arranged a series of workshops and gatherings to help people working in voluntary and community settings to find out more about the implications of introducing self directed support (or personalisation) into social care.

On Thursday 11th February we agreed to form a standing Open Forum as a channel of information from and to City of York Council, an opportunity for exchanging new ideas and good practice between voluntary and community based providers and as a way of arranging for relevant training.

Please feel welcome to attend the next Forum meetings at 10am on 18th March (which will be a question and answer session), 29th April (Safeguarding and Personalisation) and 27th May (agenda tba) all at the Priory Street Centre, York. For further information and to book a place, please contact Yorks CVS Reception on 621133 or email: yorkcvs@yorkcvs.org.uk

Support on Safeguarding for children and young people's organisations

Following recent up-to-date training at the NSPCC National Training Centre around safeguarding children and the ISA: Vetting and Barring Scheme I'd like to extend an offer to York based voluntary and community sector youth clubs/groups around support with safeguarding children and young people policies and procedures.

This is also an ideal opportunity to receive one-to-one support and information around the ISA: Vetting and Barring Scheme and what it means for your organisation.

I'm looking at beginning to meet with local youth clubs/groups in early March so if you'd like to receive support around safeguarding and the ISA: Vetting and Barring Scheme get in touch via email or phone and we can work out a suitable date/time to meet.

Craig Waugh, Development Officer - Children, Young People & Families, York CVS
Tel: 01904 621133 Email:

craig.waugh@yorkcvs.org.uk

Bert Sherriff

York CVS was sad to learn that Bert Sherriff died peacefully on 10th December aged 87. Many groups will have applied to Bert for grants from York Children's Trust for which he was the Clerk for many years. This and his other charity work was remembered at a celebration of his life on 29th January at New Earswick Folk Hall.

Jack Archer

Sadly, Jack Archer died peacefully on 2nd March in York Hospital after a short illness aged 91. Twice Lord Mayor, Jack was one of

the most respected citizens of York, a dedicated public servant, and a lovely gentle man. After many years as a City and County Councillor, Jack retired from local government and immediately put all his energy into voluntary organisations, becoming a leading member of Age Concern, York Older People's Assembly, OCAY and several other charities. His funeral will take place on 12th March.

New NHS Locality Director for York

Rachel Johns has been temporarily transferred to another post within the PCT and Alex Morton Roberts has replaced her as Interim Locality Director for York. Alex may be contacted on 01423 859 671 or by email Alex.Morton-Roberts@nyypct.nhs.uk

Guide to rural network support

This new guide gives rural voluntary and community organisations, and those working with them, a clear introduction to rural networks in Yorkshire and the Humber. It outlines what each of the networks aims to achieve and how they will support and improve the representation of rural VCS organisations. It is the first in a new series of Regional Forum guides for the voluntary and community sector.

The guide can be read and downloaded free at: http://www.regionalforum.org.uk/publications_resources/knowledgebase/500/530/321.pdf

Want to make a difference to York's cultural offer?

York@Large is one of the seven Without Walls partnerships charged with delivering the York City Vision and Community Strategy, York, a city making history. York@Large, York's cultural partnership, is looking for new members. Its aim is to develop the city's cultural offer in order to:

- provide opportunities for fun and inspiration
- encourage creativity
- make York the most active and participative city
- support the development of York's economy

encourage visitors to stay longer
Examples of projects that York@Large has been working on include:

- co-ordinating a programme of events for the city under the *City of Festivals* brand including getting ready for the 2012 games and developing a young people's festival for 2010
- launching an awareness campaign on the health benefits of active leisure to increase participation
- taking forward the idea of a cultural quarter for York
- contributing the cultural perspective to the current economic master planning and city centre visioning exercises

They would especially welcome people from the following sectors:

Commercial organisations

- Festival Organisers
- Heritage
- Visitor Attractions
- Faith organisations
- Education / Universities

But most importantly they need people with an informed interest and an ability to contribute new ideas.

The basic commitment is to 4 afternoon meetings per year with optional additional meetings for working groups and one-off tasks.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity informally please contact the chair, Janice Murray on (0113) 2201902.

An information pack is available from Charlie Croft, City of York Council on (01904) 553371. e-mail charlie.croft@york.gov.uk

Closing date for applications: 30 April, 2010

International Women's Week in York

International Women's Week is being celebrated in York from 6th - 13th March, with the usual vibrant mix of cultural, health and thought-provoking activities aimed at women of all ages. The full brochure is available at www.yorkwomen.org.uk, or pick up a printed copy from libraries or other information points.

New Council directors appointed

City of York Council has agreed the appointment of four directors to newly established directorates. The organisation review – part of the More for York programme – proposed reducing the number of director posts from six to four to reflect a new organisational structure already agreed by councillors.

The council's Appointments Sub Committee has made the following appointments:

- Sally Burns to the post of director of Communities and Neighbourhoods
- Pete Dwyer to the post of director of Adults, Children and Education
- Ian Floyd to the post of director of Customer and Business Support

Bill Woolley will continue in his role as director of City Strategy because of the similarity between his current position and the structure of the new City Strategy directorate.

Bill Hodson, the current director of Housing and Adult Social Services, and Heather Rice, the current director of People and Improvements, have accepted voluntary redundancy as part of the restructure.

The four directors will formally take up their new positions on 1 April. Until then they will be director designates, planning for the changes and continuing to support the work of their directorates.

The York Healing Trust Centre

Meditation and Healing is now available at Priory Street Centre, 15 Priory Street, York every Thursday evening between 7 and 9pm in the Foxwood and Fishergate Rooms.

Please arrive before 7.15pm when the meditation begins. No appointments required. Healing follows allowing each person to receive about 20 minutes healing each. This is followed with a cup of tea and a chance to chat with the healers.

Come along and experience healing for yourself. This can help you to relax and be re-energised. The Healers give their time free, but do request a donation of £5 towards the running costs of the centre.

Contact John Phelps MNFSH 01423 359241

email jp.helps@hotmail.co.uk,
www.thehealingtrust.org.uk
Registered Charity 1094702

High Tech reaches Holgate Community Hall

Poppleton Road Memorial Hall has recently acquired a Lottery "Awards for All" -funded digital projector and drop down screen. These can be connected to a DVD player. Also to a laptop computer for powerpoint or wifi-connected presentations. Hall enquiries and booking details at

www.poppletonroadhall.org.uk

In addition to wifi throughout the building, the Memorial Hall has four cable connected internet sockets in its first floor meeting room. This is suitable for hire, for e.g. small computer training sessions.

Make the Most of Yortime - Support for Your Group

This project aims to attract more people to join community groups in York, take up volunteering, pursue a new hobby, start a course, learn a new skill, get involved with what's going on locally and make the most of opportunities available at clubs, libraries, galleries and museums in York. It's all about 'Making the most of Yortime!'

With a particular focus on Clifton, Heworth and Guildhall, the project has been running community-based events and activities throughout February 2010. Family Fun Days at Friends of St Nicholas Fields and Burton Stone Lane Community Centre attracted over 300 people between them, with 40 local voluntary and community groups exhibiting, providing workshops or demonstrations. In addition there have been 60 taster sessions going on. Community groups supporting these events include Tang Hall Local History Group, York Ladies Cricket Club and Playspace.

Date for your diary - 'Make the most of Yortime and Yorgroup!' 13th April 2010 from 4pm-9pm, at York St John University.

This event aims to show you what support is

available throughout the City of York to help you continue run your organisation, recruit new volunteers and develop activities.

This includes:

- Marketing your organisation
- Help with funding
- Networking
- Training
- IT support
- Resources available

If you would like to attend the event, or would like to show what your organisation may be able to offer other community groups or organisations around York, please contact Charlie Mitchell, Project Officer, Make the most of Yortime!, Learning City York, 07870 498886 / learningcityyork@google.com before 19th March.

WWF's Earth Hour

Worldwide Fund for Nature's Earth Hour is scheduled to take place on 27th March 2010 from 8:30pm to 9:30pm. This will be the fourth year of the Campaign with the WWF aiming for over a billion people across the world to switch off their lights for an hour. It is hoped that such large-scale action will send a powerful message to world leaders of the need to take positive and urgent action to tackle climate change.

In conjunction with a number of partners across the city, the Council plans to turn the lights off on prominent buildings it owns, including the floodlighting on the walls and York Minster. Previous years have seen iconic landmarks across the world participate in Earth Hour, including Big Ben, the Sydney Opera House and the Pyramids in Giza. Interested individuals, businesses and organisations can go to <http://earthhour.wwf.org.uk> to sign up to the campaign and receive ideas of how to make the most of Earth Hour.

Managing in a Downturn

Almost half of charities suffered a fall in income between May and November 2009, according to a new report. *Managing in a Downturn*, a half-yearly survey of members of the Charity Finance Directors' Group and the Institute of Fundraising, found that income fell in

49.5 per cent of organisations. This was, however, better than predictions in the previous report in July last year, when 56 per cent of respondents said they expected a fall.

In the latest report, 29 per cent said incomes were up - 11 percentage points higher than predicted in July.

Forty-two per cent of the 181 respondents said they expected income to fall further in the next six months; 27 per cent expected it to increase. Sixty-eight per cent of respondents said they expected wage bills to rise.

Overall, charities were generally becoming less pessimistic about the future, but their fears over statutory income had increased sharply.

See http://www.cfdg.org.uk/cfdg/press_release_230210.asp for a summary of the report and tips for surviving the downturn.

Threshold Changes for Financial Years ending 31st March 2010

Charities with accounting periods ending 31st March 2010 are now subject to the new accounting and reporting thresholds introduced last year. Key changes are:

Type of Accounts

The **income** threshold at which non-company charities may opt to prepare receipts and payments accounts (as opposed to accruals accounts) has increased from £100k to £250k. All company charities (regardless of size) must continue to prepare accruals accounts.

External scrutiny of Accounts

The income threshold requiring accounts to undergo external scrutiny for both company and non-company charities, has increased from £10k to £25k.

The income threshold for which Trustees may opt for Independent Examination (as opposed to audit) remains at £500k, subject to the new assets threshold of £3.26m where income exceeds £250k.

Filing Accounts

The threshold requirement for all registered charities to submit a copy of their annual accounts and Trustees Annual Reports to the Charity Commission has also been raised from £10k to £25k.

For further information on the threshold changes or details of the York CVS Independent Examination Service please contact the Community Accounting Team on 01904 621133.

Further delays for charitable incorporated organisation

The launch of the charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) - a new legal form for charities - has been delayed again. It is now not expected to become available until late this year or early 2011. Provisions for the establishment of CIOs, which would allow charities to incorporate without registering with both the Charity Commission and Companies House, were included in the Charities Act 2006. CIOs were initially expected to be available from summer 2008. This further delay is because there would not be enough time in the current parliamentary session to pass the necessary secondary legislation. A proposed consolidation of charity law will also now wait until the next Parliament.

Health and social care reform

The Prime Minister delivered a speech on health and social care reform at health think-tank The King's Fund on 8 February. Gordon Brown pledged more choice, control and personalisation in health and social care and set out plans to expand the offer of care in the home and to provide dedicated one-to-one nursing for cancer patients.

www.number10.gov.uk/Page22396

Personal Care at Home

The Personal Care at Home Bill website now has the working draft regulations based on the principles outlined in the consultation document. These regulations will be subject to change depending upon responses to the consultation. <http://bit.ly/percarehome> or www.dh.gov.uk

Citizenship Survey

Communities And Local Government has published the latest national statistics from the Citizenship Survey. The survey covers a range of issues including community cohesion,

empowerment, values, racial and religious prejudice and discrimination, volunteering and charitable giving. <http://bit.ly/clqcsvyjan10> or www.communities.gov.uk

Equality Bill

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission is currently embarking on a consultation process to support implementation of the Equality Bill. Deadline for responses is 16 April. <http://bit.ly/eqbillconsult> or www.equalityhumanrights.com

Cabinet Office Advisor on Third Sector Innovation: first report

Rt Hon Anne McGuire MP, the Cabinet Office's Advisor on Third Sector Innovation, has published her first report, 'The Role of the Third Sector: Personalisation of Health and Social Care and Services to Reduce Re-offending'. <http://bit.ly/coinnovation>

Change from Sick Note to Fit Note

On 6 April the sick note will change and become the fit note. When an employee falls ill or injured, their doctor will be able to advise whether, with appropriate support from their employer, they could return to work while they recover. www.dwp.gov.uk/fitnote



Charities Q&A: Elections

In the latest in a series of Society Guardian pieces giving legal advice to the voluntary sector, Rosamund McCarthy, partner at Bates Wells and Braithwaite solicitors, answers questions on charities and elections.

<http://bit.ly/graunelect>

Grassroots Grants

Grassroots Grants applications for the current funding round will be accepted until 16 April 2010 initially. If the scheme is under subscribed it will be kept open until all the funding has been awarded.

Whether it's helping local clubs get hold of new kit, coaching new volunteers or simply giving the village hall a fresh lick of paint,

Grassroots Grants aim to make a real and immediate difference to the work of small and local community groups.

Grants are from £250 up to £5000, and are available to voluntary and community groups that have been active in the community for at least 12 months, with annual incomes below £30,000 (averaged over the last 3 years) and led by volunteers. Groups must have a governing document in place (if not, help may be available to create one). You must be able to spend the grant by 31st March 2011 and must not have received more than £5000 in total from the Grassroots Grants fund.

For more information please contact York and North Yorkshire Community Foundation.

www.ynycf.org.uk. Tel. 01759 377400 or

email: office@ynyfc.org.uk

Application form and guidance notes are available electronically from: [http://](http://www.ynycf.org.uk/grants/grassroots_grants/)

www.ynycf.org.uk/grants/grassroots_grants/

Yorkshire Forward – Building Better Futures Awards

These awards aim to highlight successful partnerships between the private sector and voluntary, community and faith (VCF) organisations.

There will be a total of seven awards to partnerships that demonstrate diversity, ambition, innovation and leadership. One of the seven will be awarded to a partnership between a VCF organisation and the public sector. Both partners in partnerships will receive an award, with the VCF organisation additionally receiving a grant of £10,000.

To apply, go to: www.yorkshire-forward.com/supporting-people/jobs-for-everyone/equality-and-diversity/creating-better-futures-awards-2010. The deadline for applications is 12pm on 25 March 2010.

Community Service Pilot

A total of £695,000 is available in York during 2010 for constituted community and statutory organisations to deliver volunteering opportunities and youth community action for young people aged 14 – 16. Young people can also bid for funding to carry out volunteering projects of their own design. The funding will be

allocated in three rounds with the following deadlines:

- Round 1 (organisations only) – 12 noon, Friday 19 March
- Round 2 (organisations and young people) – 12 noon, Friday 16 April
- Round 3 (organisations and young people) – 12 noon, Friday 27 August

Most applications from organisations are expected to be in the range £5,000 - £50,000, though some larger projects may be for more than these amounts. Activities must involve young people who live, or go to a school in, York. To receive an application form, full criteria and guidance notes, contact the Grants & Partnerships Team at City of York Council – telephone: 01904 551748.

Odin Charitable Trust

This trust makes grants of up to £3,000 for a wide variety of work including:

- arts
- care for disabled and disadvantaged people
- work supporting homeless people, prisoners' families, refugees or travellers
- research into false memories and dyslexia

Odin wants to support small organisations that, by the nature of their work, find it hard to attract funding. Applications for funding should be sent to:

Mrs SGP Scotford, Trustee, PO Box 1898, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1YS

Get Connected funding

The Department of Health has established a capital fund to enable registered providers of social care in the independent sector to access digital technology more effectively. Run by the Social Care Institute for Excellence, the Get Connected Investment Project is a capital grant scheme for the registered providers of adult social care in England supporting personalization in adult social care. It will enable you to improve access for your users, carers, visitors and staff to information and communications technology (ICT) so they can use the internet to communicate, learn and train and the new CAWD E-Learning Project.

The ICT can be used in many ways, for example to:

- Improve the skills and knowledge of your staff (e.g. by giving them access to e-learning). This funding may support you to participate in the CAWD E-Learning Project.
- Enable people who use your services to keep in touch with their communities (e.g. supporting residents of care homes to surf the internet, send emails)
- Keep your team up-to-date with the latest developments in policy and practice

See the website for more information which also includes a FAQ section: <http://www.scie.org.uk/workforce/getconnected/cycle1.asp>

The next cycle of funding opens for applications in April.

Rural Access to Opportunities Fund

The Rural Access to Opportunities Fund is to provide investment to support interventions in rural areas, which have the potential to improve or maintain access to services by rural residents and businesses. Projects and activities funded through this programme will have a primary economic purpose and will deliver economic outputs and outcomes, set within the context of sustainable rural communities. Priorities are to provide:

- a. Access to essential goods and services; employment; advice and support; health support.
- b. Access to training which will help individuals and businesses develop.
- c. Access to communications, both land and web based.
- d. Access to support for the unemployed and those whose employment is 'at risk', including the self-employed.

NB. The focus will be on providing access to, rather than the service itself, unless there is a demonstrable market failure in providing the service. Every effort will be made to ensure that any activity funded through this project will not duplicate that already being undertaken by Business Link Yorkshire and the Area Tourism

Partnerships; rather it will aim to be complementary.

Grant Size - £10,000 - £50,000 with a maximum project cost of £100,000 (except in exceptional circumstances). Project must have 50% match funding. Application forms and guidelines can be downloaded at www.ruralyorkshire.org.uk. Please contact the Rural Support Officer before completing your application form. Jane Johnson 0845 313 0270 ext 234 07540 691029 or by email jane.johnson@ruralyorkshire.org.uk

Volunteering Fund for Health and Social Care

The new Department of Health Volunteering Fund for Health and Social Care provides a combination of grant funding and support to third-sector organisations working with volunteers in the health and social care field. Competition for the fund is likely to be extremely intense as it is anticipated that only around 6-8 grants of up to £35,000 over 3 years will be available in each region. This means there is a strict eligibility criteria in place that organisations should be aware of prior to applying to the fund. This includes: being a constituted third sector organization, and having key policies on equality, health and safety and safeguarding of children and adults already in place. For more information on the criteria visit the 'Current Funding Round' section of the Volunteering Fund website www.volunteeringfund.com

B&Q One Planet Living Awards

The B&Q One Planet Living (OPL) Grant offers between £50 and £250 of B&Q materials to schools, community groups and charitable organisations for long-term sustainable projects. Projects must support at least one of the following themes: save energy, conserve nature, support local culture & heritage, grow your own. Projects can apply for funding until 30 September. <http://bit.ly/oneplanetliv>

LankellyChase Foundation

Each year the foundation sets aside funds for a summer small grants programme. This year it has decided to concentrate these funds on

activities that benefit children and young people aged 5-17 years who are living in refuges for families escaping domestic violence or who are young carers. The deadline: 14 May.

www.lankellychase.org.uk

Cash 4 Clubs

Cash 4 Clubs is a sports grants scheme which provides funding to support grassroots UK sports clubs. It gives clubs a chance to win grants ranging from £250 to £1000. Grants can be to improve facilities, purchase new equipment, gain coaching qualifications, or generally invest in the sustainability of the club. www.cash-4-clubs.com

Elephant Trust for the arts

The Trust was set up to make it possible for artists and those presenting their work to undertake and complete projects when frustrated by lack of funds. It is committed to helping artists and institutions that depart from the routine and signal new, distinct and imaginative sets of possibilities. Grants have usually been limited to £2,000 but larger grants may be considered. Priority is given to artists and to small organisations and galleries. Deadline: 13 April. www.elephanttrust.org.uk

Environment Funding Guide

Directory of Social Change has published a new edition of its guide to sources of funding for environmental groups.

<http://bit.ly/dscenvfund> or www.dsc.org.uk

Feel Involved – York’s Year of Volunteering 2010

This month we focus on young people’s volunteering.

What does it all mean for young people?

Do you want to experience something new? Develop new skills? Enhance your CV? Meet new people? Give something back to your community? Or just want to have some fun? Ever thought about volunteering? Volunteering is an activity you do by your own choice, it involves spending your time, unpaid (apart from necessary expenses like bus fare) doing something that benefits other people in the

community or environment.

Feel Involved 14-16

The Government funded York Youth Community Action programme, **Feel Involved**, managed by City of York Council in partnership with York CVS and York Cares, will be promoting volunteering and community action activities that 14-16 year olds can get involved with. To find out more, if you are aged between 14-16 you are invited to the

FREE Feel Involved Launch Party, at The Duchess, York on Wednesday 25th March, 19:30 – 21:30.

You will have the chance to listen to 4 up and coming York Youth Bands including Hotfudge, The Standbys & The Galleries, hear from young people already involved in volunteering projects across the city and find out more about other youth volunteering opportunities. To make sure you got a place on the guest list text ‘Launch & Your Name’ to 07807 020993

Volunteering Taster Days will be coming to schools in the summer term.

If you are aged between 14-16 you can sign up with your friends to take on some volunteering that excites you. Over one day, you will tackle a range of projects in the community to really make a difference to your local area. A selection of activities will be on offer so that you can choose something that really matters to you. You might choose to use your sporting skills to teach classmates or children. Budding actors could perform to brighten up the day of elderly people in your community. Or how about becoming an eco-warrior and learning how you can change the environment for the better? You will also have the chance to discuss the kind of issues you think are important and get advice from the experts on how to go out and make some change yourself.

There’s loads going on - so keep an eye out to find out how you can have some fun and really make a difference!

Vinvolved 16-25

York’s vinvolved team aim to inspire volunteers 16-25 through creating a range of new volunteering opportunities in York that match your interests. To find out more go to: www.vinspired.com and type in York or con-

tact Charlotte Smithson on 01904 621133

Current opportunities include:

Revamping The Zoo York's Local skate park: Clear up, paint up and flower up this park for local young people

Tash & Charlies Angels: Help the involved Team promote volunteering through a designing a new magazine, promoting volunteering at Monthly Socials and supporting them in a range of exciting events, such as Spontaneous Acts of Kindness Day!!! (Friday 13th August – Friday 13th turned right on its head)

Disabled Access Project: Help the involved Team experience York through a range of disabilities and help put together information that helps disabled tourists understand what local facilities are available.

Vinvolved Events Management Team: Help the involved team organise one of York's biggest launch events to promote 14-16 volunteering! Or the team can support you with your own ideas for volunteering projects! Find out more through becoming our friend on Facebook – look for our '**York Vinvolved**' profile.

The involved Team hold Monthly Socials @ The City Screen Basement Bar, Coney St @5pm till 6pm Next Monthly Socials: Monday 12th April & Monday 10th May

Top Tip: With funding cuts resulting in **6000 fewer university places** for 2010-2011, and **applications to UK universities up by 23%** this year, getting a place at University is becoming increasingly difficult. **Volunteering** is a great way for you to get course and career related work experience on your CV, which could help contend for degree places!

Calling all young people!

Want to be involved in something big and never attempted before in York?

Want to be involved in York's biggest act of kindness ever seen this side of the moon?

Then get involved with Feel York's Year of Volunteering, Spontaneous Acts of Kindness Day Friday 13th August

On that doomed day we want as many people as possible to do an act of kindness! To help you with this task you can receive some free flower or herb seeds from the Vinvolved Team.

These seeds are for you to sow and nurture, then when in bloom give your flowers and herbs to a neighbour, a residential home a centre for homeless people, your mum or dad, a special teacher or to someone you feel deserves them. This is your opportunity to be kind....go sow!!! Lets grow our plants for the doomed day and make Friday the 13th a day to look forward to!

Contact the involved Team, Tash or Charlotte, on 01904 621133 or email natasha.almond@yorkcvs.org.uk

Big Challenge (UK)

UnLtd, the charity that supports social enterprises, has announced that the Big Challenge competition will be open for application under a new theme from the end of April 2010. The Big Challenge is a competition for young people funded by Vodafone and youth charity "V", along with social enterprise foundation and competition organisers UnLtd. The contest offers either groups of young people or those working on their own aged between 16 and 25 the chance to win a share of £60,000 funding to carry out projects that use volunteering to help tackle the problems facing the 21st century.

This year's Big Challenge theme focuses on bringing communities together. Individuals can apply on their own or in a group with other young people. Applications can be submitted in any creative format and will be shortlisted by UnLtd Youth Leadership Team before a final vote by the public. Successful applicants will get part of the Challenge fund, they will have their project costs paid for and support and mentoring over the rest of the Challenge year to make their ideas a reality.

See: www.bigchallenge.org.uk/

Want to involve young volunteers in your work?

Local organisations wanting to harness the energy and enthusiasm of young volunteers to help in your work can get advice and support from the involved team. Contact Natasha Almond on 01904 621133 or

natasha.almond@yorkcvs.org.uk

The Power of Volunteering

Volunteering England has launched a manifesto setting out how the next Government can support volunteering. Alongside the manifesto, it has also published a 'Volunteering Pledge' which it is asking all MPs and candidates to sign up to. www.volunteering.org.uk/manifesto

York Volunteering Network - Making York a Volunteering City

Friday 19th March 2010, 1.00 – 4.00pm, Main Hall, Priory Street Centre, York.

For all volunteer-using organisations in York. A sandwich lunch will be served from 1.00, giving us a chance to mingle and network before the 'business' starts at 1.30.

Key issues this month:

- View the resources available from York CVS that your organisation can borrow to promote volunteering opportunities or hire for fund raising events
- Find out about the grants process for the Youth Community Action pilot (14-16 yr olds' volunteering)
- Find out about the new fund (£50,000) made available by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation York Committee that will provide small grants to local volunteering organisations to improve access to volunteering. The fund will be managed through York CVS.
- York's Year of Volunteering - How your organisation can be involved in National Volunteers Week in June and Spontaneous Acts of Kindness week in August
- How can we best meet the training and support needs of Volunteer Managers? Give us your ideas!

For further information contact Liz Hamilton, Volunteer Centre Manager 01904 621133, liz.hamilton@yorkcvs.org.uk.

All welcome but it helps us if you can let us know you are planning to attend.

Free Help

When funding is hard to come by, it's worth looking at some of the free help that is available to voluntary and community groups

Prohelp

ProHelp is a national network of over 1,000 professional firms each of which has offered to provide professional advice and strategic support free of charge to community groups and voluntary organisations in their local area. Collectively, ProHelp is the largest provider of free professional support to local communities. Member firms provide £6m worth of free support each year which is delivered through 40 local groups. Professional firm members include surveyors, architects, consulting engineers, accountants, solicitors, consultants (management, property and IT), public relations, marketing and design agencies.

The professional firms undertake one-off projects which can include feasibility studies, structural surveys, marketing and business plans, legal and accountancy advice and property valuations. The guiding principle of ProHelp is that members approach this sort of work in the same way as they would any other fee-paying clients. The only difference is that the community client is not charged for the work undertaken. In some areas ProHelp also offers general advice surgeries and workshops on specific topics impacting on local community groups.

You must be a community based, not-for-profit group working for the social and economic regeneration of your local area and should fit within the following criteria.

have a track record of working successfully with the local community

- have no funding available for the specific project and no paid advisors retained to do the work
- if part of a national organisation, your branch must be locally constituted, and prove that neither the expertise nor the funding to pay for the work is available centrally
- your project must be realistic and viable
- your governing body must be willing to

authorise the involvement of ProHelp
The following are not eligible:

- applications for assistance with litigation will not be considered
- help is generally not given to animal welfare organisations nor organisations whose primary focus is overseas aid
- assistance to religious groups will only be offered if the project benefits the wider community

To find out how to receive free professional advice visit: www.prohelp.org.uk

LawWorks Choices

LawWorks is a small independent charity which matches volunteer lawyers with opportunities to use their skills for the public good (pro bono). The Choices project is designed to match unemployed lawyers with pro bono activities. The solicitor members are always looking for opportunities to undertake pro bono work.

If you have an opportunity for this bank of qualified solicitor volunteers, contact LawWorks with a description of the work to be done, the location, and the hours / days that are required. This will be advertised on the members only area of the LawWorks Choices website, and the volunteers can then apply for a position.

LawWorks also offers Initial Electronic Advice, an automated, web-based system, which allows not for profit organisations and advice agencies to submit a short legal query and have this answered by a lawyer via email, completely free of charge. The main legal areas they cover are: advertising, banking, building and construction, charity, clinical negligence, commercial, company, competition, construction, consumer, consumer credit, contract, corporate, crime, debt, education, employment, energy, environment, EU, health and safety, housing, immigration, insolvency, insurance, intellectual property, IT, landlord and tenant, mental health, mortgages, data protection, finance, insurance, pensions, personal injury, planning, property, public law, small claims, tax, telecoms, trust, welfare, wills and probate.

For more information contact Lorna Heselton, Choices and ALLIES Project Officer, Tel: 0207 090 7368, www.lawworkschoices.org.uk, www.lawworks.org.uk

Small Charities Coalition

The Small Charities Coalition is like a free voluntary sector matchmaking service, enabling small charities to help each other to achieve their aims and objectives by exchanging the skills and resources they have, for those they don't. This model of support is self sustaining; small charities helping small charities but the coalition underpins this support with help of larger charities. One of its aims is to bridge the gap between large and small and it aims to do this by encouraging the largest charities to allow their key staff time-off to support small charities under the guise of staff development. www.smallcharities.org.uk

New web pages from the Office of the Third Sector

Help the third sector keep up to date with regulation

Red tape can make life difficult. These pages from the Office of the Third Sector are intended to help people that run third sector organisations by highlighting recent and ongoing changes and initiatives that are intended to make life easier for them and providing links to where more detailed information can be found.

The Government wants to ensure that third sector organisations are not subject to unnecessary or disproportionate regulation and administrative burdens. The new pages include information about changes to charity law and regulation, including the implementation plan for the Charities Act 2006 and the Plain English guide to the Act.

However, they also provide links to useful information on other websites, such as:

- the Simplification Plans all Government departments produce that outline their achievements in reducing the burden of regulation on businesses, charities and voluntary organisations
- the Department for Business, Innovation

and Skills new Employment Law Organiser, which is intended to help all employers, including third sector organisations, manage the key legal obligations they are required to fulfil.

Access the new pages at www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector

New financial year - use your Compact

Compact Voice has released a new fact-sheet, containing Compact guidance for voluntary and community groups preparing for the next financial year. The short guide, written by Daniel Fluskey from the Compact Advocacy Programme, details some typical scenarios facing voluntary groups and organisations, as they prepare for the next financial year. It recommends the appropriate course of action, and details how Compact principles support this action, as evidenced by recent actual cases mediated by the Compact Advocacy team.

You can download the fact-sheet from the Compact Voice website, www.compactvoice.org.uk

The refreshed national Compact (published Dec 09) is available from www.thecomcompact.org.uk

Data.gov.uk

www.data.gov.uk is a new website giving access to a wealth of Government data, including education, the NHS, crime, transport, the environment.

Updated guidance

Hallmarks of an Effective Charity, and The Essential Trustee guidance have both been updated to include a new good practice recommendation for all charities on environmental responsibility and sustainability. See Hallmark 3, and section H4 of the Essential Trustee for the full text.

Organisations might also be interested in the dedicated web page on Charities and Environmental Responsibility which has further information and a set of Questions and Answers to support charities in thinking about how to be

more environmentally responsible. www.charitycommission.gov.uk

City Regions

The Regional Forum has published a briefing on City regions. The briefing explains the concept and rationale which underlie City regions and how they are developing in Yorkshire and the Humber. It considers why they are important and what the implications are for the voluntary and community sector (VCS).

Read and download the briefing at: http://www.regionalforum.org.uk/publications_resources/knowledgebase/500/540/322.pdf

Guide to winning public sector contracts

From the Supply National Small & Medium Enterprise (SME) Engagement Programme. You have to fill out an online form to download this free publication. www.supplygov.co.uk/events/Supply/SMEGuide_form

Forthcoming courses from York CVS

Funding Training Programme

The highly popular 6-session Funding Training Programme is being offered again after Easter, on Wednesday evenings from 21st April.

The programme of 6 short, low cost training sessions is designed to help local organisations get to grips with funding and fundraising issues. The sessions are informal and participative, aiming to give participants practical skills and ideas to take away. You can book the whole programme, or individual sessions. For full details contact Melody Clarke, Funding Adviser, on 01904 621133, melody.clarke@yorkcvs.org.uk

These courses always book up quickly so get in touch soon to secure your place. Closing date 7th April.

Managing a Community Building

17th May, 9.30 - 4.30 Trainer: Kenny Leiske, Priory Street Centre Manager The course will provide an overview of what is needed to ensure the effective management of a commu-

nity building ranging from ongoing maintenance through to the financial and legal aspects. The session will also explore 'what makes a successful building' and will cover a wide variety of subjects including disability access, integrated building management systems, the environmental impact of property as well as business continuity and disaster recovery planning. A number of practical toolkits and online resources will be provided.

The full **York CVS Summer Training Programme** will be available soon - check out <http://www.yorkcvs.org.uk/training.html> later this month.

Equalities Conference

Implementing the Equalities Act in the Third Sector

Tuesday 23rd March, 10am - 4pm, Priory Street Centre

The Equalities Bill is a very comprehensive piece of legislation that seeks to consolidate a wide range of statutes on discrimination and to extend initiatives to promote equality. It is planned that by the end of March the Bill will have completed its passage through Parliament. The conference seeks to provide an up to date introduction to the Equalities Bill and to look at some of the key issues that voluntary and community sector organisations in York and North Yorkshire will need to address in the coming months.

For further information or to book a place, please contact: Jeanette Lilley at NYFVO, The Hawk Creative Business Park, Hawkhills Estate, Easingwold, York YO61 3FE.

01347 825710, nyfvo@nyfvo.org.uk

LSC Transitions Bulletin #6

The sixth Bulletin from the Third Sector National Learning Alliance (as part of the support programme for voluntary and third sector providers as the Learning and Skills Council undergoes major changes) has now been published: Download the Bulletin at: <http://www.tsnla.org.uk/content/lsc-third-sector-transition-support-resources#>

Influencing policy, driving change

Thursday 25th March 2010, 10.00am - 4.00pm, The Octagon, Hull

A one-day regional conference jointly organised by Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Forum and the NCVO Forum for Change, for anyone involved in campaigning and influencing in the voluntary and community sector. This event will help you make sense of the external policy environment and focus on the skills and expertise needed to get your voice heard where it matters - locally, regionally and nationally.

The conference will explore:

Key trends in the external policy and campaigning environment

- How to engage with regional and sub-regional decision making structures
- The 'rules of engagement' with Westminster & how to get your voice heard
- The principles for effective collaboration in your campaigning & policy work

The day will end with an interactive Q&A session with Prospective Parliamentary Candidates from the main political parties across the region. Full details of the speakers and workshop choices can be seen by visiting <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/influencingpolicyconference>. To book: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/influencingpolicyconference> or contact Sue Beckett on 020 7520 2440, email susan.beckett@ncvo-vol.org.uk.

beyond the centre

Equipment hire and other practical services for voluntary organisations from York CVS

funded by



Sign Printing

Vinyl cut signs made to order and available on a variety of background boards (including magnetic strips for easy removal), pvc banners and fabric material. The signs can also be applied directly onto walls and vehicles and

Identification Cards

Full colour printing onto credit card sized plastic badges along with plastic holders and clips that are ideal for...

- photo ID cards
- visitor passes
- membership cards
- conference badges

Specialist Cleaning and Caretaking Services

Priory Street Centre can now offer specialist cleaning, maintenance and health and safety services to other community buildings

- a commercial carpet cleaning service
- portable appliance testing (with computer generated records and labels)
- indoor scaffolding tower for working at heights
- power jet washing equipment

Conference and IT Equipment Hire

- staging rostra
- data-projectors and screens
- portable IT suite with up to 12 wi-fi laptops
- abilitynet software for disabled people
- flip charts, ohp, mp3 recorders / players
- display boards and display units
- mini-projector (suitable for use with a pda or smart phone)

Outdoor Event Equipment Hire

- large starshade marquee and gazebos
- portable wind turbine electric generator
- tables and chairs

Fundraising Equipment Toolkits

- throw the wet sponge game
- 2 in 1 penalty shoot out
- pulse megamouth portable pa system
- megaphone
- sack race kit
- giant snakes and ladders
- electronic bingo machine
- racing duck kit
- lottery discs and draw bag
- giant draughts
- play your cards right game
- space hopper race kit
- egg & spoon race kit
- on target game
- bar and hardwood skittles
- handheld collection boxes
- charity collection buckets
- giant connect 4 game
- giant jenga
- large raffle and tombola drum
- coconut shy
- quoits

For more information please call 01904 621133 or drop into our Equipment Hire Showcase Day and see what's on offer Friday 16th April (1pm – 3pm) Priory Street Centre

- Mon 15th March **Action Against Hunger** Community Volunteer Group meeting, 7pm at the Royal York Hotel. All current and new volunteers welcome. Further details from Rachel Pinnick r.pinnick@aahuk.org – 020 853 7576
- Tues 16th March **Contracts of Employment.** NYFVO training. 10 – 4pm, Priory Street Centre. Details training@nyfvo.org.uk or 01347 825710.
- Weds 17th March **Charity Seminar** provided by Dickinson Dees solicitors and Charity bank in the North - looking at current issues in the charity world. York. Details from www.dickinson-dees.com
- Fri 19th March **Volunteering Network** meeting, 1 - 4pm, Priory Street Centre. Details Liz Hamilton, liz.hamilton@yorkcvs.org.uk, 01904 621133
- Mon 22nd March **York Youth Community Action pilot Information Event**, 2 - 4 pm, Priory Street Centre. Details Mik O'Connell, 01904 554416
- Mon 22nd March **York Carers Forum** meeting
- Tues 23rd March **Equalities Conference**, Priory Street Centre. To register interest contact NY-FVO on 01347 825710 or nyfvo@nyfvo.org.uk
- Thurs 25th March **North Yorkshire Learning Consortium AGM and Celebration** event Harrogate. Details 01423 799100
- Tues 30th March **Are they safe?** workshop. Details www.safenetwork.org.uk, tel 0116 234 7217
- Tue 13th April **Make the most of Yortime and YorGroup.** C4C, York St. Johns University, 4pm - 9pm. Help and support for community and voluntary groups in York. See www.yortime.org.uk for more details or contact: yortime-make-the-most-of-it@googlegroups.com
- Fri 16th April **Voluntary Sector Strategic Forum:** How will cuts in public sector budgets affect the third sector in York? 9.30 - 1.00, Priory Street Centre
- Sat 17th April **Green Dance** - York in Transition Ceilidh, 7.30pm, Priory Street Centre. Details anne@yogoinyork.co.uk, tel 07891 989310
- Weds 21st April **Funding Training Programme** - running Weds evenings to 26th May, this 6 session course takes you through all the essentials of successful fundraising. Details from Melody Clarke at melody.clarke@yorkcvs.org.uk, 01904 621133, or York CVS Reception team.

York Council for Voluntary Service, 15 Priory Street, York YO1 6ET

Phone: 01904 621133 Fax: 01904 630361 Email: yorkcvs@yorkcvs.org.uk Web: www.yorkcvs.org.uk

York Voluntary Voice is compiled and published by York Council for Voluntary Service. The views expressed in Voluntary Voice do not necessarily reflect the policy of York Council for Voluntary Service. York CVS is an independent voluntary organisation funded by grants from Selby & York PCT, City of York Council and a variety of other sources. The main aim of York CVS is to support and develop the work of the voluntary and community sector in the City of York. Mention of goods or services in this newsletter does not constitute endorsement by York CVS, nor is it a guarantee of quality. York CVS is a company limited by guarantee reg. number 493550 (England). York CVS is a registered charity (225087). To advertise in York Voluntary Voice contact Reception on 01904 621133

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