

Bucks Voluntary and Community Sector News

Welcome

...to the first issue of the Bucks VCS News, produced by public sector organisations in Buckinghamshire. Our aim is to make sure you're kept up to date on developments that may interest you and that you're aware of the various kinds of support we offer.

We want the newsletter to be useful to you, so if you have any comments or suggestions please contact us at vcs@buckscc.gov.uk

If you'd like to receive this newsletter by email please send your details to the address above.

This newsletter has been developed in conjunction with the Compact Steering Group, the partnership that develops and implements the Compact in Buckinghamshire. For more information please visit www.bucksinfo.net/buckscompact

Interim Expert Volunteers Project launched

This new initiative will harness the expertise of senior executives, managers and other high-calibre professionals for the benefit of local VCS organisations.

Volunteers taking part will have recently found themselves out of work or facing redundancy.

Through a number of short term targeted "assignments" they'll focus their skills, experience and knowledge on helping VCS organisations overcome challenges triggered by the recession.



The scheme provides an exceptional opportunity for organisations to benefit from expertise that isn't often available, while enhancing the CVs of volunteers and uncovering new opportunities for employment. Some great opportunities have already been identified so if your organisation could benefit from some short term specialist, strategic or management input, please register your interest now. Volunteers for the scheme will start with a programme of Executive Workshops to help identify transferable skills and provide an induction into the not for profit sector.

The Interim Expert Volunteers initiative is being delivered by Voluntary Impact Bucks, in partnership with the Bucks Economic and Learning Partnership and Aylesbury College. The Bucks Strategic Partnership is funding the project.

If you think your organisation could benefit please contact volunteering@valevolunteers.org.uk

New look for the BCC VCS Hub

Buckinghamshire County Council have just launched a new look VCS Hub at www.buckscc.gov.uk/VCSHub. The Hub is a collection of pages on the BCC website providing a "one stop shop" for VCS organisations.

The pages have lots of information on everything from identifying funding opportunities to accessing free training and other in-kind support. Depending on what you need, the Hub can direct you to resources provided by the Council, support and advice provided by our partners and information relating to specific council departments and service areas.

Please visit the Hub and let us know what you think at vcs@buckscc.gov.uk



Revitalise Your Neighbourhood

Are you a VCS organisation working in Chesham, Amersham, Great Missenden and Prestwood or the Chalfonts villages? If so, you may be interested in getting involved in one of the Chiltern District Council supported "Revitalisation Groups".

The Revitalisation Groups have been leading community wide appraisals to identify local priorities and develop community led action plans to support these. This ground breaking work has been delivered via a multi agency approach which has seen residents working with various partners including the parish and town councils, police, the Paradigm Housing Group, the Primary Care Trust, schools, leisure providers, groups of younger and older people, local traders and environment groups.

Recent successes have included winning lottery cash to enable environmental improvements in deprived areas, community run libraries in Little Chalfont and Chalfont St Giles, wider access to the Misbourne River pathways in Chalfont St Peter, a community newspaper and signage for visitor attractions.

For more details contact David Gardner (Community Projects Officer) on 01494 732759 or visit www.chiltern.gov.uk/revitalisation

Free and subsidised training

Voluntary Impact Bucks provides a variety of training opportunities including:

- Volunteer Recruitment and Management
- Fundraising Training
- Trustee Recruitment Forums

Please visit www.voluntaryimpactbucks.org for more information.

Youth Focus provides subsidised training to organisations that provide services to children and young people. To find out more please visit www.youthfocus.org.uk.

Buckinghamshire County Council provides free training for organisations working in the adult social care sector on specific social care topics (e.g. dementia awareness; safeguarding adults awareness; falls & fracture prevention) and more general human resources management issues.

Details of courses are available at www.logontocare.org.uk. Alternatively please contact Laura Iannone (01296 382205) or Jackie Ashford (01296 382047).



Aylesbury Vale District Council is running a fundraising training programme until March 2010. The programme is subsidised for groups in Aylesbury Vale, with sessions available on:

- Compiling and writing a project grant application form
- Raising funds from Trusts and Foundations
- Understanding the outcomes approach
- Raising funds from major donors
- Compiling a fundraising strategy

For more details of the courses and costs please contact Liz Evans (01296 585256 or levans@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk) or download the training brochure from www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/community-living/grants/grants-voluntary-community-sector/sources-funding-advice/

Support from your local infrastructure organisations

Voluntary Impact Bucks is a consortium of infrastructure support and Volunteer Centre organisations funded by the County and District Councils. They offer a wide range of support to VCS organisations, from help with governance and fundraising to referring volunteers.

To find out more visit www.voluntaryimpactbucks.org or call 0845 3890389.

Youth Focus is the co-ordinating body for Bucks VCS organisations who work with children and young people. It provides a network for organisations linked to the Children and Young People's Trust, support around policy and practice development and an online directory of youth organisations www.youthbiz.org.uk.

Visit www.youthfocus.org.uk or call 01296 631911.



Does the Vetting and Barring Scheme affect you?

The Vetting and Barring Scheme was launched on 12th October 2009 and marks a major new development in the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The two immediate impacts of the scheme for VCS organisations are:



1. a big increase in the number of jobs and activities classified as “regulated activity”. People who aren’t allowed to work or volunteer with vulnerable groups will be barred from taking up these roles.

2. it will become a criminal offence for barred individuals to seek or take up regulated activity with vulnerable groups. It will also be an offence for organisations to knowingly take them on.

The process of confirming that someone isn’t on the barred list will be carried out via an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check, so all new starters in regulated positions will need to have a CRB check before they can begin work.

The new scheme doesn’t replace current safeguarding practices but adds to them, so where there’s a legal obligation for CRB disclosures or recommendations of best practice currently this will remain. The scheme is being introduced in phases with the next major date being July 2010, when the Independent Safeguarding Authority's registration scheme will be introduced. We’ll update you on the implications of this in Issue 2 of this newsletter, due in March / April 2010.

For more information on the scheme and on safeguarding please visit the following sites:

www.bucks-lscb.org.uk

www.crb.gov.uk

www.isa.gov.org.uk

A list of umbrella organisations providing CRB checks is available from www.bucksc.gov.uk/VCSHub

AVDC Community Chest and Project Grants

There are two funding pots available to VCS organisations in Aylesbury Vale.

The Community Chest is run jointly by Aylesbury Vale District Council and the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust. Each year until 2017, the fund has a budget of £500,000 to support projects that improve life in our community.

Two types of grant can be applied for, Microgrants up to £1,000 (awarded monthly) or Project grants up to £25,000 (awarded three times a year). Grants can be for capital purchases or revenue costs. All applicants must demonstrate local need for the project, involvement of and benefit to local residents. For information contact the Community Chest Grants Officer on 01296 585634 or visit www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/community-living/grants/community-chest/

AVDC also has project funding available up to 50% of project costs, with a maximum award of £10,000. Funding can support new or improved leisure or community activities or facilities, training and development of staff and / or volunteers and promotion of community events and festivals. The next deadline for applications is **11th January 2010**.

For more information please contact Anne Vujanic on 01296 585186 or visit

www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/community-living/grants/grants-voluntary-community-sector/

Free websites

Did you know that you can get a free listing or website on Bucksinfo.net, the web portal for VCS groups supported by the County and District Councils?

With over 1,400 clubs, societies and other community organisations already listed Bucksinfo.net is the starting point for many people to find out about organisations and groups in their area.

Visit www.bucksinfo.net to find out more.



Have your say – Partnerships

The way in which local priorities are identified and services are designed and delivered is increasingly being done through partnerships, which bring together representatives of local councils, health, police, fire and rescue, the business sector and VCS organisations.

There are two key partnership groups in Buckinghamshire; the countywide Bucks Strategic Partnership (BSP) and the four district based Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)

The LSPs and BSP have a number of sub-groups which look at more specific areas or themes, for example the Children and Young People’s Trust, a sub-group of the BSP.



If you have an issue that you want to raise or if you want to have more influence over what happens in Buckinghamshire and how, partnerships may provide the right opportunity.

There are two main ways to get involved, either through direct engagement or through an intermediary – an organisation already on a partnership that can represent your views. To find out more please visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/VCSHub

In-Kind Support

The County and District Councils offer a variety of promotional opportunities, access to information and other materials we hope will be useful to your organisation.

The County Council has been developing a new “In-Kind Support” strategy and we’re pleased to be able to list some new features below. We have plans to develop this further so look out for additional opportunities in Issue 2.

- Access to Human Resources and Health & Safety policies
- Free advertising on video screens in libraries
- Editorial in our 19 Local Area Forum newsletters
- Access to a wide variety of research data

For further information on all of the above please visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/VCSHub

AVDC has a newsletter that goes out to the 106 parishes in the Vale on a regular basis. VCS organisations that have relevant news (e.g. information about a community event) can send short articles (75 words max) for inclusion in this newsletter. Please contact Alice Fisher at afisher@aylesburyvalecd.gov.uk

Tender Adverts & Notifications

- Domiciliary Care (advertised end November)
- Speech and Language Therapy (advert due this year)

All County Council tenders are advertised at www.buckscc.gov.uk. Please visit the VCS Hub for a link.

Useful Contacts

Aylesbury Vale District Council	grants@aylesburyvalecd.gov.uk	01296 585186
Buckinghamshire County Council	vcs@buckscc.gov.uk	01296 383869
Chiltern District Council	housingandcommunity@chiltern.gov.uk	01494 732013
South Bucks District Council	sbdc@southbucks.gov.uk	01895 837200
Wycombe District Council	grants@wycombe.gov.uk	01494 421424
Voluntary Impact Bucks	admin@valevolunteers.org.uk (Ayl) wycvcs@nascr.net (Wyc) office@voluntaryaction.org (C&SB)	0845 3890389
Youth Focus	office@youthfocus.org.uk	01296 631911