

WORCESTERSHIRE CHILDREN'S FUND

NEWSLETTER

Edition 2: May 2007



WELCOME to the second edition of the Children's Fund Newsletter. In this issue we are going to tell you about the exciting changes taking place as the Children's Fund migrates into the Community Capacity Team within the Community Partnership of WCC Children's Services. Children's Fund is funded until 2008 and the future was unsure about what would happen to this Government initiative. We can now announce that the Worcestershire Children's Fund Team will carry on working with the Community as the Community Capacity Team led by Peter Sugg the Community Capacity Service Development Manager.

How it will work!

Areas will be split by the school and community cluster area's: North-West, North East and South Worcestershire.

Rachael Brown, Community Capacity Manager will be covering North-West Worcestershire (Tenbury, Wyre Forest, Hagley and Droitwich) and Countywide projects. Contact Rae on 01905 776052 or email rbrown@worcestershire.gov.uk

Gail Kemp, Community Capacity Project Worker will be covering North-East Worcestershire (Redditch and Bromsgrove). Contact Gail on 01905 827441 or email gkemp@worcestershire.gov.uk

Andrea Blake, Community Capacity Project Worker will be covering South Worcestershire (Persore, Evesham, Worcester City, Malvern, The Chantry). Contact Andrea on 01905 773742 or email ablake@worcestershire.gov.uk

If you would like more information please contact the member of the team from your area.

MARCH RECOMMISSIONING

With the end of the financial year around the corner, Worcestershire Children's Fund (WCF) recommissioned approximately £38,000. This was due to Peter Sugg moving to County Hall, as the Community Capacity Service Development Manager.

Everyone in the county was given the opportunity to apply for the money as long as the activity was for children and young people aged 5-13 years old, with priority given to the following groups (due to Government guidelines):

- 1) Disabilities
- 2) Travellers
- 3) Young carers
- 4) Black Minority Ethnic Groups
- 5) Drugs and Alcohol
- 6) Disadvantaged urban and rural geographical areas across Worcestershire.

Also using the CYPP outcomes and targets as an additional deciding factor, children and young people had a significant role in the decision making process.

There was an overwhelming response with over 56 applications from all over the county. It was a difficult decision for the board to decide who received the money due to the high standard of the applications.

The following projects received funding for a project to run from April 2007 to April 2008:

- Action Sport Redditch - Woodrow
- St Luke's, Redditch - Leaps and Bounds Mentoring Project
- Restorative Justice - Malvern
- Borrowers Toy Library - Outreach Worker

For more information on these projects please contact the Children's Fund Office on 01905 775773.

PARENTING SUPPORT

ParentsMatter via the Parenting Support Board are currently developing the Worcestershire Parenting Support Strategy to ensure a more consistent, authority- and county-wide approach to meeting the support needs of parents. This will offer agencies and all those linked with the Parenting Support element of the extended services core offer a coherent framework for the promotion, development and delivery of high quality support to parents when they need it, at the required level. To ensure ParentsMatter have the information to do this they are requesting that anyone who works directly with parents on parenting issues, in a group or one to one basis, please contact ParentsMatter on 01905 827443 or parenting@worcestershire.gov.uk

KIDZ FIRST's Long Bank Project in Bewdley, is a 'Not for Profit' Garden Centre, with growing and selling zones for independent plant enthusiasts where you can showcase and sell your plants and produce and help a charity. For more information please contact Kidz First on 01432 267584 or email officekidzfirst@aol.com

SAFEGUARDING IN THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

The WCVYS, having been commissioned by the Children's Fund via the Safeguarding Board, have just completed a Research report mapping safeguarding in the sector. The report, which was presented to the Worcestershire Safeguarding Board on 25th April 2007, outlines current practice and concludes a series of recommendations to move the process forward. The research also produced a guidance pack which will be available by the end of May. Further details are available from the Children's Fund on 01905 775773 or email childrenfund@worcestershire.gov.uk

FLOSS - Youth Opportunity Fund Deadline Friday 11th May 2007

The Youth Opportunity Fund was launched by the Government in March 2006. The money aims to increase the number and range of places to go and things to do for young people. Young people themselves control this funding and they should take an active role in deciding how this is spent locally.

In Worcestershire, the fund is managed by a group of young people and they have decided to call this 'Floss'. Floss offers 'money for young people' and their mission is to use this to fund lots of stuff!

For an application pack please contact the number below. The closing date for the next round of funding is midday on Friday 11th May. I hope you see this as an opportunity to engage young people you are working with to consider how they might like to spend a potential grant of up to £2,500 and support them to apply for this.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with us on 01905 827489 or floss@worcestershire.gov.uk

CHILDREN'S FUND PROJECTS NETWORK MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday 15th June at 1.30pm, with light refreshments provided, at Worcestershire Children's Fund offices. The agenda will be forwarded to you nearer the time.

THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you would like to contribute an article to the newsletter please contact Rae on 01905 776052 or email

rbrown@worcestershire.gov.uk.

The deadline for the next issue is 25th May 2007.