



# Worcestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Services Newsletter December 2011

WCVYS in partnership with Worcestershire Youth Service are launching the

## THE 2012 TRYANGLE AWARDS

### CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENT NOMINATE A YOUNG PERSON FOR A TRYANGLE AWARD

Young people do some remarkable things and too often this goes without recognition. Tryangle Awards are for young people who have achieved, but their achievement has gone unnoticed. Those unsung heroes who get on with life and face the odds, never receiving acclaim or credit.

We'd like you to put forward a young person or group of young people who you believe deserve to have their accomplishment celebrated.

You've got until Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012 to send in your nominations for a Tryangle Award. There are eight award categories, so come on and take a look at the Tryangle Awards brochure which is enclosed or to make your nominations online go to [www.youthworcs.org.uk/Tryangles](http://www.youthworcs.org.uk/Tryangles).



The Awards Evening is being held at Worcester Warriors Rugby Club on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

Just take a moment to look around you or pause for that moment's thought and identify that young person whose efforts, skills or perseverance merits that Award. Nominate now.

For further details contact Phil Street on 07540 031 953  
or email [phil@wcvys.co.uk](mailto:phil@wcvys.co.uk)

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Charity No: 1128461 Company No: 06707357 Tel 01905 795098 Fax 01905 798207 Web: <a href="http://www.wcvys.co.uk">www.wcvys.co.uk</a> Email: <a href="mailto:office@wcvys.co.uk">office@wcvys.co.uk</a>	Jo Banfield, Administrator <a href="mailto:jo@wcvys.co.uk">jo@wcvys.co.uk</a> Tel: 07595 099862 (Monday only 9 - 1.30pm) 01905 795098 (Tue Wed Thurs 9 - 1.30pm)

## **WCVYS**

### **WCVYS SPRING MEMBERS' FORUM**

WCVYS will be holding its Spring Members' Forums on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at EIL in Malvern and on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at Kidderminster Youth House. The Forums will start at 7pm. and runs until 8.30pm. The Forums will include E-Safety: Protecting Young People from Cyber Danger; Update on CRB Changes and a look at The Future of Positive Activities.

Speakers tbc include Chief Superintendent Martin Lakeman - West Mercia Police; Bridget Clark - Worcestershire County Council and Chair of the CRB Local Government Group and Phil Street – Manager WCVYS.

To book a place contact [jo@wcvys.co.uk](mailto:jo@wcvys.co.uk)

### **WCVYS PROJECTS**

WCVYS are pleased to announce that first cohort of volunteers recruited and trained as Participation Mentors to work with the *Support Guidance and Skills Service* are beginning their work in December. They will be working one to one with young people aged 16 to 18 who have left learning and require additional support to overcome barriers to re-enter learning. This is part of a pilot to support the *Raising the Participation Age* in which Worcestershire County Council are including volunteering as a positive thread in its planned support structure.

## **ROUND THE COUNTY**

### **Worcestershire Voices Project**

The Worcestershire Voices project aims to improve the engagement of the whole of the sector, to develop strategic Leadership and to build a strong and influential voice for the voluntary and community sector in Worcestershire.

Michael Hunter is chairing the Project Group which is driving forward the development of Worcestershire's new VCS leadership, engagement and representation model. It is an interim arrangement that will hand over responsibility to the new Voluntary Sector Strategic Board by April 2012. The group are keen to engage with the sector throughout the process to ensure that the new arrangements best meet the needs of the sector.

The group has set up a Facebook page in relation to its work and would like to encourage as many people as possible to sign up and contribute to this page.

You can find the page either by following this link <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Worcestershire-Voices-Project/223680417701167> or by going to Facebook and typing 'Worcestershire Voices Project' into the search box. The group is keen for your feedback and to hear your thoughts, so please feel free to contact Michael on [michael@wcvys.co.uk](mailto:michael@wcvys.co.uk) or to feed in via the Facebook page.

Full details of the all the Group Members can be found in the Briefing Note enclosed.

## **Positive Activities – Cabinet Decides**

The future of Positive Activities was considered at Worcestershire County Council Cabinet meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November. The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services, Councillor Liz Eyre, told Cabinet members that the majority of youth work in Worcestershire was not provided by the statutory sector, but by the voluntary sector and as from April 2014 it was agreed that the County Council would cease providing a youth service.

Instead the County Council would meet its obligation to services for young people through partnership with the voluntary youth sector. Cabinet approved plans to make available £1m to the voluntary youth sector. Positive Activities would be commissioned at a district level by county councillors advised by young people. Their commissioning decisions will be shaped and guided by local district forums.

Councillor Eyres said the decision about changing the way Positive Activities was delivered had been forced upon the County Council by financial pressures. However, the plan they had devised, based on the results of widespread consultation, was in tune with localism and by disposing of certain youth centres it meant services would be pushed to the frontline. Funding is to be made available to provide infrastructure support.

Earlier in the meeting Cabinet had received criticism from young people and adults who accused the County Council of not listening to young people and asset stripping the communities by closing valuable youth centres. One critic said the County Council should not be spending less, but more on the youth service.

The Director of Children's Services is to be responsible for introducing the new proposals from April 2012

### **Youth Unemployment**

There has been a fall in the number of young people out of work claiming benefits in Worcestershire despite a big rise in unemployment nationally.

Youth unemployment nationally has broken through the 1 million mark to a record high and the UK's wider unemployment rate has climbed to a 15-year high. Fears that young people are bearing the brunt of Britain's economic slowdown were underscored by official figures showing there were 1.02 million unemployed 16 to 24-year-olds between July and September.

One in five young people are now out of work. However, Worcestershire has bucked the trend with the number of young people aged between 16 and 24 in the county claiming fell slightly to 3,415, which is a drop of just over 150.

## TRAINING

### Level 2 Award/Certificate in Youth Work

Please see the enclosed information for full details on this Award and how to apply.

### Employability Training

Inspire Futures Group is offering a training course that will be of benefit to you and the young people you work with.

The course offers a Level 2 Certificate in Employability Skills. It is a **free** course which gives young people the opportunity to develop the skills needed for employment.

The qualification is portfolio based and with flexible delivery times; the course can even be held at your premises and is delivered by qualified and CRB checked trainers.

#### Who is it aimed at?

- 16-18 year olds
- Residents of the UK
- Good standard of literacy

If you think this is something that would be of use to your young people, please give Amy Charles a call at Inspire Futures Group on 07817 921 196.

## SAFEGUARDING

### E-Safety and WCVYS Members

Many WCVYS member organisations provide young people with computer access. However, whether they have access at the organisation or not, most of the young people will have access to computers at home. [In a UK survey of more than 1,000 parents and children, in 84% of households where children were aged 5-15, the children had access to the Internet (NFER, 2010)]

The young people will be receiving messages from school and parents about e-safety issues, but it is clear that voluntary sector youth organisations have their role to play in promoting e-safety. However, it is recognised that the voluntary youth sector is not a homogeneous group. A recent safeguarding survey carried out by WCVYS revealed that member organisations varied enormously.

The survey, not surprisingly, revealed that organisations with paid staff were more likely to have staff trained and aware of safeguarding issues, whereas smaller organisations, especially those without paid staff, often did not have anyone trained in safeguarding or CAF.

WCVYS wants to support its members to respond to e-safety issues and at a recent meeting of Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board E-Safety Group it was agreed that WCVYS would take three actions to support e-safety amongst its members and other voluntary youth sector organisations.

- To investigate further the self review tool and explore whether it is feasible to make it available to voluntary youth organisations across the county;
- To provide presentations on e-safety at WCVYS's members' forums in early 2012;

- To provide information about E Safety Helpline to all WCVYS members and other voluntary youth organisations.

In the next WCVYS Newsletter there will be more information about all three actions.

### Safeguarding Update

On November 8<sup>th</sup> Tim Loughton, the Children and Families Minister, spoke about the Government's attitude to safeguarding.

He confirmed their determination to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people in care.

He applauded the good work of local Safeguarding Boards.

He spoke about the Munro Review of Child Protection and said that, in response to the review, the Government's approach to child protection reform is driven by three key principles:

- trusting skilled frontline professionals to use their own judgement;
- reducing bureaucracy and prescription;
- and, most important of all, making the system child-centred.

There will be a revision of Working Together To Safeguard Children.

Safeguarding Boards will be able to decide their own priorities, monitor how workers and services are working together identifying any problems as they emerge.

To strengthen the role of the Board the annual report must be submitted to senior local leaders.

Serious Case Reviews, suitably redacted and anonymised, must be published. so that there can be as much learning as possible from these tragedies.

Tim Loughton also spoke about child sexual exploitation. There will be a national action plan to tackle this 'hidden' crime.

He commended the Safeguarding Boards for their good work but reminded them that "there is no room for any of us to be complacent. Thousands of children across the country need help urgently, and it is our responsibility to deliver that help".

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
FROM THE STAFF AND  
TRUSTEES AT WCVYS**



## FUNDING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Open 4 Funding

The Worcestershire Partnership has again purchased a two year licence for this program which again is free of charge for ALL Worcestershire residents, Businesses, Charities, Schools and now learners The Holding page is <http://www.open4funding.info/worcestershire/> which you should save as your Favourites.

Open 4 Funding is a funding information website which gives charities, community groups, schools, social enterprises, and individuals access to a comprehensive database of funding opportunities including government, lottery, EU, non-government and other available funding in Worcestershire.

By registering on this free website you will receive:

- Free and unrestricted access to the funding databases
- Full contact details of funding providers
- Information about local support for your organisation
- News bulletins on changes to funding schemes

**If you click on the link above you will now see 3 options:**

1. *Worcestershire 4 Communities – All European, National, Regional and Local funds available for Community organisations*
2. *Worcestershire for Schools and Colleges - All European, National, Regional and Local funds available for Schools and Colleges*
3. *Worcestershire for Learning - All European, National, Regional and Local funds available for Individual Learners.*

### Land Aid Charity

Land Aid, the property industry's charity supports projects that help disadvantaged or homeless people (particularly young people). Grants are available to support projects that provide accommodation or assist in meeting accommodation needs; refurbish or renew facilities; and deliver training, life skills or other educational programmes.

Registered charities and registered community interest companies can apply. Funding between £5,000 and £25,000. Deadline: 31 January 2012.

<http://www.landaid.org/grants>

### Ernest Cook Trust

The Trust aims to encourage and support educational activities that are linked to the countryside or the arts Grants are only available for projects with clear educational purposes. Grants should also focus on the needs of children and young people Registered charities and not-for-profit organisations can apply. Under £4,000 for the Small grants programme. Over £4,000 for the Large grants programme. Applications may be made at any time.

<http://www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk/grants/index.html>

### The True Colours Trust small grants

The Trustees are committed to supporting a large number of excellent local organisations and projects that support disabled children and their families on a daily basis. The Trust has a small grants programme, usually for one-off purposes, to help smaller organisations develop and deliver programmes for children, their siblings and families. The Trustees are particularly keen to support: Hydrotherapy pools; Multi sensory rooms ; Mini buses; Young carers projects ; Sibling projects ; Bereavement support.

**Who can apply:** Not stated.

**Level of Funding:** Up to £10,000.

**Deadline:** Applications can be made at any time: [http://www.truecolourstrust.org.uk/small\\_grants.aspx](http://www.truecolourstrust.org.uk/small_grants.aspx)

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Chancellor's Autumn Statement

According to leading figures in the charity sector the Chancellor's autumn statement has brought little prospect of additional resources or growth for the third sector. The statement contained few announcements of particular relevance to the voluntary sector.

National Council for Voluntary Organisations deputy chief executive, Ben Kernighan, said the most significant message was that difficult economic conditions were likely to remain.

"Reductions in terms of public funding mean more cuts," he said. "We've only had one year of planned reductions in public budgets out of three. There's going to be worse to come.

"There will be no increase in public spending in the foreseeable future. The prospect of an increase in sector funding in the short to medium term is pretty bleak."

Dan Corry, CEO of the think tank New Philanthropy Capital said times were going to be tough for charities. "Charities that have weathered the storm so far now and know they will have to work very hard to cope as need increases and funding and contracts get harder to find. running down reserves and making easy cutbacks will no longer do. The worry is that it will be the very people that charities are there to help who will bear the brunt."

WCVYS heard that Worcestershire charity Noah's Ark ceased business during November and it is aware that several other charities in the county are facing extremely challenging times. In the next issue of the newsletter WCVYS will be running an article about the effects of cuts on its members.

### Enclosures with this newsletter:

Programme Idea  
Level 2 Award in Youth Work Practice  
Worcestershire Voices Project  
Christmas Card

**WCVYS office closes on  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
and re-opens on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.**