



Worcestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Services Newsletter July/August 2011

WCVYS's Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 12th October 2011

We are delighted to announce that WCVYS's Annual General Meeting will have as its keynote speaker Richard Soper - Chief Executive of Worcester Bosch. The company have also been kind enough to host the WCVYS AGM. It will be held on Wednesday 12th October 2011 at 7 p.m.

More information will be contained in the September newsletter, but to secure your place at the AGM please contact Jo Banfield on jo@wcvys.co.uk

WCVYS Members' Forum and Membership Pack

WCVYS held two members' forums in June. The first which covered North Worcestershire was held at the Trunk in Bromsgrove and the second, for members in the south of the county was held at Wallace House, Evesham. Members received a briefing on the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and how the voluntary youth sector should engage with CAF. The forums were also used to launch WCVYS's new members' packs. The pack is contained on a CD and consists of 33 fact sheets and a copy of the WCVYS Safeguarding publication. The fact sheets include information on governance; constitutions; policies; forms; recruitment and safeguarding.

All members of WCVYS will receive a copy of the CD with this newsletter.

Child Protection – Is the Voluntary Youth Sector Qualified to Protect our Children and Young People?

Accompanying the growing importance of the voluntary youth sector in Worcestershire and the reduction in the activities of the County Council's Youth Service comes greater responsibility for protecting our children and young people. As other services change or contract, the voluntary youth sector may be the only leisure time provider that children and young people contact. It is absolutely essential that WCVYS members have appropriately qualified staff and volunteers, as well as having policies in place to respond to child protection and safeguarding issues when they arise.

WCVYS has negotiated with Worcestershire Safeguarding Childrens Board for free Group A on-line training from the E-Academy. But, before we introduce this training we want all our members to complete a very short and simple safeguarding questionnaire which can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FD8LN85>

WCVYS would like all our members to complete the survey by 31st July 2011.

WCVYS will be contacting you directly about introducing the free on-line service from 1st September 2011.

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WCVYS

Member In Profile

Well Done EIL

Congratulations go to EIL, a cultural and educational charity based in Malvern, who are celebrating their 75th birthday this year! EIL (Experiment in International Living) arrived here from the United States in 1936 with the aim of increasing cultural awareness and understanding between people from different cultures, and they have been 'bringing people together' ever since.



Their wide range of programmes includes local 'identity' projects, international themed group travel, international volunteering and hosting an international traveller. EIL also offer fully funded programmes for 18 – 30's to volunteer in another European country for free!

Their most recent programme, Changing Minds, brings together local British young people from different backgrounds who wouldn't normally meet. The Worcester & Malvern version has just finished and was a great success. Thanks to all who were involved!

For more information go to www.eiluk.org or phone 01684 562577.

ROUND THE COUNTY

Future of Worcestershire Youth Service

The County Council have announced that as part of their package of cuts Positive Activities for Young People (the Youth Service) is having its budget reduced by £1.4m from April 2012. The County Council is now consulting what arrangements should be put in place to allocate the remaining £1m. The consultation commenced on 6th July and continues until 30th September.

One of the main results of the cuts in funding is that the voluntary youth sector is going to be crucial for young people and their leisure activities.

It is very important that young people, staff and volunteers involved in the voluntary youth sector have their say. We want all our members to respond to the consultation. Attached is a paper copy of the consultation, but if you prefer you can reply on-line at

<http://haveyoursay.whub.org.uk/whub/KMS/dmart.aspx> and search for Current Consultations – Positive Activities

Important Date for Your Diary

VCS consultation on the Future of Positive Activities

Saturday 17th September 10.00 – 12.00 at County Hall, Worcester.

New Local Projects Fund

WCVYS members will be pleased to read that County Councillors have unanimously approved a new fund that is aimed at one-off items of expenditure or supporting community activity, local and national charities or voluntary organisations within the county councillors local division.

At the County Council meeting on 30th June the fund was given the 'green light' which will see each of the 57 elected county councillors allocated £10,000 per year to spend on facilitating local initiatives in their area.

County Council Leader Adrian Hardman said "The role of the local member is to lead their communities and this is a new and innovative way of embracing the principles of localism to support truly local initiatives.

More information to follow when it is available.

Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust formally established

A new health care and trust to provide community and mental health services across Worcestershire was established on 1st July 2011.

Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust will provide the vast majority of the services which were previously managed by Worcestershire Primary Care NHS Trust's Provider Arm, such as community hospitals and district nursing, as well as the mental health services that until now have been managed by Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust. Chris Burden is the chairman of the new health and care trust and believes that the new combined Trust will provide a more efficient and seamless service for those patients and service users who would previously have had to access services from both organisations.

They also believe that that the new organisation, which will have a budget of £155million and employ almost 5,000 members of staff, will be of the necessary size to be sustainable and viable in the new environment for health services.

WAVOCC Annual General Meeting

Friday 22nd July 2011, 10:15am to 12.30pm

Venue: Sight Concern Worcestershire, The Bradbury Centre, Worcester

The theme of the day is "The VCS in Health and Wellbeing- Change and Opportunity"; which aims to investigate the challenges of the current environment and explore VCS working relations with the new GP Consortia and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust.

Confirmed contributors to the morning currently include Sarah Dugan, Chief Executive, Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust.

Consultation on services in Worcestershire to support children and young people's emotional and mental health

Mental health is everybody's business. Support for children and young people to develop good emotional and mental health is provided by families, early years settings, schools and colleges as well as a range of early intervention, targeted and specialist services. We want to know what you think about how good the support is for children, young people and families. What is working well, or not so well, and where are the gaps?

This consultation was launched on 14th June and runs until 21st September 2011.

The survey responses will contribute to a needs assessment which will help us plan improvements to the way children and young people in Worcestershire are supported to have good emotional wellbeing and mental health.

There are two separate questionnaires for adults. You may be a parent/carer and/or a stakeholder working with children/young people so please answer one or both as appropriate:

Wider stakeholders working with children/young people:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/researchweb/camhs/camhs_stakeholder.htm

Parents and carers' questionnaire:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/researchweb/camhs/camhs_parents.htm

There is also a questionnaire for children and young people:

Children and Young People's questionnaire:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/researchweb/camhs/camhs_cyp.htm

If you have any general questions about the consultation please contact me by emailing: akirton@worcestershire.gov.uk

More information about the consultation can be found by accessing the Worcestershire consultation portal:

<http://haveyoursay.whub.org.uk/whub/KMS/news.aspxstrTab=PortalHome&noIP=1&SessionId=P949DW6PW5>

Useful Websites

Advice on Sexual Health

<http://www.playinitsafe.co.uk/>

Advice on Drug and Substance Abuse

<http://www.worcestershire-daaf.org.uk/>

<http://www.talktofrank.com/>

Advice on Bullying

<http://www.bullying.co.uk/>

SAFEGUARDING

Block'em app for Android phones

We all have people we would rather not hear from! Sometimes these people make a real nuisance of themselves.



Block'em is the App that lets you block unwanted calls and text messages. Cost £1.79.

Go to: <http://www.blockem.co.uk/index.html>

Safeguarding Young People

All children have the right to protection. Safeguarding and child protection documents usually state that the term 'children' covers everyone up to the age of eighteen.

In a recent article in the Guardian Carlen Firman, from Barnado's questioned whether enough is being done to safeguard older young people. She reported, for example, that there had been a decrease in the deaths of children aged under one year but there has been an increase in young people dying. She raises concern about young people who die as a result of suicide, eating disorders, drug and alcohol misuse as well as those who are sexually exploited or who are killed on the streets of cities. She argues that these young people too should be protected.

Those of us who work with older children and young people may need to be more aware of the reality of their lives and be more proactive. A CAF (Common Assessment Framework) can be a very positive early intervention particularly when it is initiated, with the agreement of the young person, by a worker who is known and trusted.

What are the Risks?

Summer, when the sun is shining, is the time we often introduce different activities into the club programme – we may go down to the park or the woods, on a trip or involve children in an outdoor fete.



All of these could be 'risky situations' When you are working with other people's children legislation requires that Risk Assessments are carried out and formally written down. This is to that before entering children into a 'risky situation' you have thought about the potential dangers faced and have plans in place to mitigate against them.

Travelling to and from an activity is statistically the riskiest part of the venture so be sure to and include travel arrangements in your risk assessment do a dry run first.

A draft Risk Assessment can be found in the Guidance Document on the WCVYS website: www.wcvys.co.uk/safeguarding

FUNDING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The BT Community Connections scheme has opened for a second 2011 round.

The awards scheme is intended to provide voluntary groups and charitable organisations working to benefit the community in the UK with IT equipment and Internet access. Successful applicants to the programme will receive a laptop and a year's free broadband Internet connection.

In particular, the scheme is keen to target areas of deprivation which normally receive little or no funding and would otherwise have no IT provision. The award will be 12 months' free connection to BT Business Total Broadband Advance, which includes features described in the standard products and services terms.

The deadline is 15 September 2011 and winners will be notified by 12 November 2011.

<http://www.btplc.com/Responsiblebusiness/Supportingourcommunities/Digitalinclusion/index.htm>

Trusthouse Charitable Foundation

The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation has announced that funding is available to local and national charities or not-for-profit organisations that address rural and urban deprivation. Within these two main headings, the Trust are interested in helping established projects which work in the fields of:

- Community Support
- Arts, Education & Heritage
- Disability & Health Care.

There are three grants schemes, these are:

- Large Grant Scheme, with grants of between £10,000 and £30,000 to cover capital costs
- Small Grant Scheme, grants of between £5,001 and £9,999 to cover capital and revenue costs
- Fast Track Scheme with grants of up to £5,000 to cover capital and revenue costs.

The Grants Committee meets quarterly to consider applications at the beginning of February, May, September and November.

The deadlines for submitting applications are generally 2 months before the date of a meeting.

<http://www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk/>

The Cooperative Membership Community Fund

Grants are available of between £100 and £2000 to help local communities throughout the UK. To be successful the group must carry out positive work in the community and the project must:

- address a community issue
- provide a good long term benefit to the community
- support Co-operative value and principles
- be innovative in its approach

To apply or find out more visit www.co-operative.coop/membership/local-communities

Applications can be made at any time but, be warned, it takes about four months to find out whether or not you have been successful

Henry Smith Charity

Small and Main Grant Programmes

Main Grants Programme

The Main Grants Programme is for grants of £10,000 or over. There are two types of Main Grant:

Capital Grants - One off grants for purchase or refurbishment of a building or purchase of specialist equipment.

Revenue Grants - Grants of up to three years for core costs (including salaries and overheads), or the running costs of a specific project (including staffing costs).

Small Grants Programme

The Small Grants Programme is for one-year grants of between £500 and £10,000 and grants of up to £20,000 spread over a maximum of three years. Grants can be used towards running costs (including core costs and salaries), project costs, or for one-off capital expenditure such as building refurbishment or equipment. There are two types of Small Grant: County List and Small Grant.

For more information access the website <http://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/>

BIFFAWARD

Small Grants Award

Often groups only need a small amount of money to make a difference to a local facility, be it a community building, nature reserve, cultural facility or outdoor space. The Small Grants Scheme offers quicker access to lower levels of funding to make these projects happen.

Over the past three years Biffaward has supported nearly 300 projects under the Small Grants Scheme. A continuous high number of applications are received, resulting in strong competition when awarding funding. How much can I apply for?

You can apply for between £250 and £5,000. Your project must not cost more than £10,000 in total. If you have a project that you think will fit, please contact on 01636 670000 or email biffaward@rswt.org

Churchill Fellowships 2012

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust gives grants to British citizens, resident in the UK, to travel overseas to study areas of topical and personal interest, to gain knowledge and to enlarge their experience for the benefit of their profession, community and the UK as a whole.

About 100 British citizens each year are supported to travel overseas for between 4-12 weeks. In 2011 they awarded 105 Fellowships. Grants cover all travel, food, accommodation and insurance.

The categories for 2012 include Communities that Work and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Applications can be submitted until 4 October.

For more information and an on-line application go to: www.wcmt.org.uk

CONFERENCE

Changing Landscapes

Worcester Rugby Club

Wednesday 14th September 9.30 a.m

How does the voluntary & community sector engage and influence?

The conference looks at the changing nature of the relationship between the VCS and public bodies. In Worcestershire the re-structuring of the Worcestershire Partnership and the introduction of new strategic bodies such as Local Enterprise Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards means that there is a changing landscape with which the VCS has to engage. The conference offers an opportunity to find out first hand about the key changes that are taking place in Worcestershire and to find out more about how the Voluntary and Community Sector might influence local decision makers. Further details will follow but for more information please contact Karen Humphries at Community First on karenh@comfirst.org.uk, or telephone 01684 312745.

PROGRAMME IDEAS

Focus on Outcomes

Many youth groups and voluntary organisations are very good at saying what they do and whom they work. What we may not be so good at doing is identifying the changes or other results of the work that we do. These are known as Outcomes. More and more funders are asking us to identify what outcomes will happen as a result of the money they give us.

What are Outcomes? Outcomes are the changes, benefits, learning or other effects that happen as a result of our activities. For example, outcomes for users of a homelessness prevention service might include:

- Clients enabled to find accommodation
- Clients enabled to sustain accommodation
- A reduction in debt

Outcomes for a youth group might include:

- Increased self confidence
- Improved relationships.
- Improved coping strategies
- Learning new skills

Outcomes can be expected, or unexpected, welcome or unwelcome. Not all outcomes describe a change. Some outcomes may involve keeping a situation the same, or preventing harm from happening. These effects are still the outcomes of your project. If your project had not taken place, something else would have happened.

Before applying for funding think about your outcomes. Talk to the young people, the workers and the committee about what they think the outcomes are and then write them down.

More about Outcomes next month.

Visit a Nature Reserve

There are 75 nature reserves in Worcestershire which are supported by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. The reserves are all around the county, there is bound to be one in easy reach of your meeting place. Details of them including maps can be found on the website: www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk.

The trust are also able to lead group visits either to a nature reserve at the Lower Smite Environmental Education Centre, between Worcester and Droitwich. There is a charge for this service of £30 per hour plus mileage out to reserves. The Trust can be contacted on 01905 754919.

Visit Birmingham

Birmingham has many possibilities for a group visit. A busy city centre with such a rich cultural mix may be a learning experience in itself.

Among the cost free opportunities in the city centre are:

- The Museum and Art Gallery where the amazing gold of the Staffordshire Hoard is also currently on display
- St Phillip's Cathedral
- St Chad's Cathedral
- The Town Hall, the waterfall and the Iron Man

A quiz can help children look at things and make a visit more interesting. One can be put together when you are doing the 'dry run' for the visit.

Also in Birmingham - though these will cost:

- A stadium tour at Aston Villa or St Andrews
- Thinktank – Birmingham's Science Museum for loud bangs etc.
- Solihull Ice Rink



Street Soccer

Street Soccer Extream Battles: A full day, mass participation events for young children. Perfect for organisations looking to engage with large numbers of participants through providing positive activities. The day includes 3-a-side tournaments, Panna KO competitions, skills coaching, freestyle football performances and masterclasses with fantastic street soccer prizes also available.

School/Community Fun days: A Fun and exciting day for pupils as part of school sports, health, inclusion and activity weeks or community fun days and festivals. The perfect way to engage young people less enthused by sport whilst also catering for those wishing to show off their skills!

Town Centre Events: Using our mobile street soccer arenas, freestylers and portable music system get the public active and provide them with jaw-dropping entertainment.

Please feel free to check out the website www.streetwisesoccer.com

Dates for your Diary:

Bredon Playing Fields

Sunday 17th July 12.00 – 4.00

Bredon Community Play & Recreation is holding a Fun Day at Bredon Playing Fields. The focus for the day is celebrating the Stage 1 redevelopment of our playing fields that has been taking place this year. To mark this Bredon Community Play and Recreation is planning a large range of activities to suit all ages including football, tennis, arts & crafts, drumming & dancing, chocolate fountain, bouncy slide, and jewellery making.

For more information go to www.bredonplays.co.uk

WAY's first ever Skills Sharing Event!

Saturday 23rd July 10.30 – 12.30

The aim of the event is:

- To give you inspirational ideas for your youth club/ play sessions, and
- hopefully make them easier for you!
- To benefit your club's children and young people
- For our Activity Worker's to show you some new activities of theirs
- For you to get to know WAY and it's staff a bit better
- To have fun

We can confirm the Activity Workers taking part in the Skills Sharing Event are Becky Skinner and Luke Kitchen. Becky will be demonstrating some wonderful art and craft activities such as Fabric Printing and Luke will be demonstrating some great sporting activities such as Team Building exercises.

The event is free, and you even get tea and biscuits!

Please contact the Worcester Action for Youth (WAY) office tel 01905 340246 or email plum@pyplc.co.uk to book your place(s).

Caribbean Roots Connection

Community Family Sports & Fun day

Saturday 27th August 2011.

We are inviting groups/organisations to come along and promote their services which may be beneficial to the African Caribbean and Wider Communities in Redditch.

We are fully aware that there are a lot of groups that would like to participate in this event, but we are aiming to promote the Community Cohesion at this event i.e. arts and culture.

The Venue is at

Mettis Aerospace Club

HDA Cherry Tree Walk

Batchley Estate

Redditch B97 6PB

Contact: Andy Hall

Caribbean Roots Connection

Email: caribbeanrc@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 07749 118578

Photos from the WCVYS Forums



Enclosures with this newsletter:

Programme Idea

Positive Activities Consultation

Summer Play Activities Information

Worcestershire's Little Directory 2011/2012

For more copies of the Little Directory for your young people please contact 01905 681744.

The next WCVYS Newsletter will be published in September. In the meantime, please make sure you keep up to date via our email briefing sent out every Thursday. If you currently don't receive it, please email jo@wcvys.co.uk with your email address.



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