



Worcestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Services Newsletter June 2011

Don't forget to attend one of the Members' Forums

- Launch the new WCVYS Members' Pack
- Explore the Role of the Voluntary Youth Sector in the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)
 - Hear about plans for the future of the Youth Service; and
 - Hear from you

Details of the Forums:

Wednesday 22nd June at 7 – 9pm
The Trunk, Humphrey Avenue, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 29th June at 7 – 9pm
Wallace House, Oat Street, Evesham

All member organisations are invited. To book your place please contact Jo Banfield or Phil Street on 01905 795098 alternatively send an email to office@wcvys.co.uk

HELPING YOU TO BE ALL YOU CAN BE

The importance of the voluntary youth sector is growing. Without it many young people would have nothing to do and nowhere to go, opportunities for young people with disabilities would be severely curtailed and many vulnerable and disadvantaged young people would be without any kind of support. But being there isn't enough, voluntary youth organisations want to provide quality services and offer top notch experiences.

WCVYS knows that excellent work is being done by voluntary youth organisations and clubs in this county. We plan to highlight some of this each month in an *'In Profile'* section of the newsletter. But in these demanding times the support WCVYS wants to give our members is continually improving. That is why from July WCVYS will be trialling a member's health check.

The health check will ask members to think about their club or organisations:

- Management and Planning;
- Policies and Procedures;
- Finances;
- Staff: and
- Users

The health check will involve going through a set of questions asking about the current state of your club or organisation's 'health', with an offer of help to those who want it, in tackling issues that will lead to improvement.

WCVYS has committed itself to testing out the health check with three members. If you would be interested in being part of the pilot please contact Phil Street on 07540 031 953.

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WCVYS Member In Profile

The Basement Project, Bromsgrove

Increasing numbers of young people are being confronted by the crisis of being homeless. The director of the Basement Project Elaine Mortimer says that in the first three months of this year they have had a 50% increase in the number of young people using their services. Too many young people are facing the prospect of being out of work and out of a home. This adds greater importance to the work of the Basement Project. The Basement Project seeds were laid as a result of a youth homelessness conference held by Worcestershire Youth Service in 1998, The event inspired the initiative to bring together a group of professionals to set up Bromsgrove Youth Homelessness Forum. The organisation is lead by a Management Committee made up of twelve Directors/Trustees. In August 2010 the organisation extended its activities beyond Bromsgrove and its official title is now North Worcestershire Basement Projects, but remains known as the Basement Project.



The Basement Project provides support services for homeless and potentially homeless young people between the ages of 16 and 25; an integral part of these services is to focus on homeless prevention. The Basement Project is currently made up of three interlinking projects: the Basement Drop In which is staffed by a qualified youth worker and offers young people access to support, mediation, advice, and in certain cases offers emergency food/toiletry parcels. In addition to the Drop In Centre it also offers Outreach Support and the Private Tenancy Scheme which in 2010 successfully prevented over 20 young people from becoming homeless, which included over 10 new tenancies.

For more information go to:

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

ROUND THE COUNTY

Carrying the Olympic Flame for 2012

They are looking for 8,000 truly inspirational people from the UK to carry the Olympic Flame.



They need you to help find them, by nominating them to be a London 2012 Olympic Torchbearer.

The Torch will be in Worcester on 24th May and Birmingham on 30th June 2012. Go to :

<http://www.london2012.com/games/olympic-torch-relay/carrying-the-olympic-flame/>

WCC Cabinet Changes

The Leader of Worcestershire County Council (WCC), Councillor Adrian Hardman, has announced the changes he has made to the County Council's Cabinet.

Cllr Hardman will remain as Leader with responsibility for Finance, whilst his deputy Cllr Simon Geraghty will be responsible for Economy and Infrastructure (including community and spatial planning and strategic transportation).

Councillors promoted to Cabinet positions are – Cllr Jane Potter, who becomes responsible for Education and Skills, Cllr John Campion, who moves into the role of Cabinet member for Localism and Communities and they are joined by Cllr David Thain who will hold the temporary post of Transformation and Change – helping to drive forward the Council's reform agenda over the next two years.

Some other roles have changed and will present new demands on Cabinet members. Cllr Anthony Blagg is Cabinet member for Environment and Waste Management, Cllr Philip Gretton responsibility for Adult Social Care, Cllr Liz Eyre remains responsible for Children's Social Care and Safeguarding and is Lead member for Children's Services. Cllr John Smith will now undertake Cabinet duties for Highways and Transport, with Cllr Marcus Hart becoming Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing. The changes will come into effect immediately.

Sports Partnership's Disability Directory for Sport and Recreation

As part of the work undertaken by the Sports Partnership team, one of the aims was to create the first disability directory for sport and recreation.

The work has now been completed an electronic version of the directory is available at www.wcvys.co.uk/news.

If you would like hard copies or further details please contact Adam McEvoy on a.mcevoy@worc.ac.uk.

PROGRAMME IDEA



Vision Matters

The second National Eye Health Week takes place from 13-19 June. Its aim is to promote the importance of eye health and the need for regular eye tests. Some ideas for your programme:

- Organise a quiz to raise awareness, with lots of questions about eyes!
- Hold a poster competition.
- Hold a lunch with dishes made from food which can help promote healthy eyes.
- Invite a local optician to come and talk to your group.

Go to: www.visionmatters.org.uk

National News

Make sure the young people that volunteer in your organisation get recognised!

There is still time for any volunteer aged 16-25 in England to apply for one of two vInspired awards simply by keeping a record of their volunteering online:

- [vfifty](#), gained from completing 50 hours of volunteering in your local community
- [vimpact](#) achieved by doing a further 100 hours volunteering.

Young People will need to create an account online at <http://vinspired.com/rewards/awards> and log the number of hours volunteered and provide photographic evidence and a referee who may be contacted to confirm your application.

Rural Youth Conference

Surviving and Thriving - change and continuity for rural youth work conference

20 July 2011, 10am – 3.30pm

Coventry University

The Rural Youth Network Conference aims to explore issues that affect young people and those that work with them in rural areas. It will explore:

- Transitions for young people
- Working together
- Places to go, things to do
- Hearing the voice of Rural Young People

To find out more visit www.ruralityouth.com or contact the National Youth Agency.

National Citizen Service at The Prince's Trust



The Prince's Trust is appealing for Year 11 school leavers to take part in a new FREE eight-week course to be run this summer. National Citizen Service (NCS) aims to promote a more cohesive, responsible and engaged society by bringing young people from different backgrounds together to make a difference in their communities. Young people will design a project to benefit their local area as well as going on a five-day team-building trip, taking part in activities such as kayaking and rock-climbing. NCS will give young people the chance to make new friends, build their confidence and gain new skills for future employment or further education. The Trust is one of 12 pilots running across England in summer 2011 and has 885 places available to young people at a number of locations across the country.

For further information about NCS or to refer young people you work with onto the National Citizen Service go to: <http://tiny.cc/8pok3>

Charities and Insurance

The Charity Commission has produced a revised version of **Charities and Insurance (CC49)**. The guide gives an overview of the different types of insurance available, clarifies legal obligations and the options trustees have when identifying and managing risks. Go to:

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Publications/cc49.aspx>

UKYP Annual Sitting Confirmed

22-24th July - Leeds



Young representatives of UKYP have confirmed that this year's annual sitting will go ahead with the usual full programme for MYPs, and with parallel sessions for support workers. The three day event will take place at Leeds University between 22 and 24 July 2011. The full programme has yet to be announced, but will include guest speakers, and will help shape UKYP Manifesto, campaigns and calls for action and will help the UK Youth Parliament prepare for their annual debate in the House of Commons Chamber in the autumn. For further details go to:

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

SAFEGUARDING

Munro Report on Safeguarding

Last year the Government asked Professor Eileen Munro to conduct a wide-ranging review to improve child protection. Professor Munro published her final report entitled *A child-centred system* on 10 May 2011.

In her report Professor Munro signals a shift from previous reforms that, while well-intentioned, resulted in a tick-box culture and a loss of focus on the needs of the child. She has made 15 recommendations which the Government will now consider.

Among the recommendations are:

- local areas should have more freedom to design their own child protection services
- each local authority should designate a Principal Child and Family Social Worker to report the views and experiences of the front line to all levels of management.
- more must be done to prepare social work students for the challenges of child protection work
- statutory guidance should be revised and the inspection process modified to give a clearer focus on children's needs. Inspection should be unannounced

Professor Munro believes in the importance of child protection and wants the child protection system to become truly child-centred.

We await the Government's response with great interest.

For more information go to

www.education.gov.uk/munroreview

Cyberbullying Hurts!

Cyberbullying is the use of information communications technology, particularly mobile phones and the internet, to deliberately upset someone else.

Many children and young people are affected by cyberbullying- by nasty texts or phone calls, taking and sharing humiliating pictures, spreading secrets or blackmailing. Sometimes they don't talk about it to any adult.

Within a youth group it is possible to introduce the topic of cyberbullying in a non-threatening way.

- Asking young people what 'nasty texts' they have seen or heard about
- Discussing the impact it can have on those who get nasty texts etc.
- Introducing Stop, block and tell

Stop, block and tell

If you are targeted by a cyberbully:

- **STOP!**
Don't do anything. Take 5! to calm down.
- **Block!**
Block the cyberbully or limit all communications to those on your friends list.
- **and Tell!**
Tell a trusted adult, you don't have to face this alone.

New Legislation, Regulations and Statutory Guidance

A whole raft of new and revised legislation, regulations, statutory guidance and national minimum standards came into force on 1 April 2011. They relate to care planning, leaving care, fostering, children's homes and youth justice.

They are underpinned by four core values:

- Putting children at the centre and hearing their voices
- Working together to provide everything that a good parent would
- Ensuring that a child's accommodation and other needs are met
- Enabling parents, as far as possible, to retain their responsibilities and remain closely involved

All statutory guidance can be found on the DfE website: <http://www.education.gov.uk/>

FUNDING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Wychavon Community Grants

We would like to take the opportunity to remind you that Wychavon Community Grants 2011-2012 are now available to local voluntary groups and charitable organisations that aim to:

- Support initiatives that improve services and facilities for the local community
- Encourage local action to improve quality of life
- Support activities in the local community that the council would like to do, but does not have the resources for
- Contribute towards the council's priorities.

To find out more about how to apply for the grant and general help and advice please follow the link provided below:

<http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/cms/community-and-living/community-development/community-grants-2011-12.aspx>

TRAINING

ACT Training

A **Food Hygiene Course** has been organised through the ACT programme for the 4th and 11th July (both sessions must be attended) from 9am – 12.30pm at The Green Centre, Gresham Road, Dines Green, Worcester, WR2 5QS.

Contact: Sally Ellison, Worcester Volunteer Centre

Tel: 01905 24741 www.worcestervolunteercentre.org.uk

Understanding the Autism Spectrum - a foundation level course for those with little prior knowledge of ASDs, to develop an awareness of the key attributes and effects of ASD.

9.30am. – 3.30pm. Thursday 9 June. Cost: £110

Annual First Aid Basic Skills Update - This basic skills refresher is now an annual training session, strongly recommended by the HSE, for all those who already hold a full First Aid at Work certificate or an Emergency First Aid at Work certificate.

9.30am. – 12.30pm. Wednesday 6 July. Cost: £50

Basic Food Hygiene - This is an ICT based course which allows the delegate to work at their own pace, giving you a nationally recognised certificate which is renewable every 3 years.

9.30am. – 4.00pm. Tuesday 12 July. Cost: £30

For more information about these, which are run by Sunfield, go to www.sunfield.org.uk/courses

Enclosures with this newsletter:

Programme Ideas

Dates for your Diary:

WCVYS Members' Forums

Wednesday 22nd June at 7.00pm

at The Trunk in Bromsgrove

and

Wednesday 29th June at 7.00pm

at Wallace House in Evesham.

Wednesday 3rd August - Play Day.

www.playday.org.uk



WCVYS