



Note from WIC Chair

Welcome to the fourth edition of The Voice, the quarterly newsletter from Worcestershire Infrastructure Consortium (WIC). The Consortium is a partnership of the twelve voluntary sector agencies that provide information, support and advice to the voluntary and community sector in the county. The Voice is designed to keep the sector and our partners in touch with strategic county-wide developments. Local and specialist initiatives are consulted on and/or communicated through appropriate WIC members. A new feature this month is a focus on a particular local charity. Other groups will be highlighted in future editions. Please let us know if there is anything you would like included in The Voice.

Cathy Clement
Chair of WIC

ANY COMMENTS?

Please contact
Jim Smith
wavocc@btconnect.com
Tel: 01684 575545

this issue

Annual Conference
Volunteering for All
Compact Re-branding
Funding Opportunities

Key speaker announced for WIC's Annual Conference

NAVCA chief executive Kevin Curley will be a key speaker at the November WIC Annual Conference for the Voluntary and Community Sector 2009.

NAVCA is the national voice of local third sector infrastructure in England. Their Chief Executive, Kevin Curley, has agreed to discuss 'The role of infrastructure organizations in supporting the sector in their delivery of services' at WIC's annual

conference. The second theme for the day is 'The Importance of the VCS to the Economy of Worcestershire.'

This is an important date for your diary. For a booking form and to sign-up for the day please visit: www.winc.org.uk/events or for further details please contact wavocc@btconnect.com. Attendance is free, lunch and refreshments are included.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

WIC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Worcester Rugby Football Club, Pitch View Suite
Tuesday 24th November 2009 10am – 3pm



VCS VOICES HUB

WIC's second VCS representatives and listening events was held at the Bradbury Centre, Worcester, on the 25th March 2009. The attendees were split into two groups; those with limited or no representative experience, and those with a greater depth of knowledge. The more experienced attendees shared best practise and reviewed developments in the work of the VCS Voices Hub over the past few months including; a Representatives' Code of Practice, a stand alone election process, and the instigation of a short-term representation bank. While the attendees with less time spent as a VCS representative discussed WIC's induction package, and the need to feedback to the sector from LSP meetings.

For details of the event or to view WIC's representatives 'toolkit' or for opportunities please visit www.winc.org.uk/representation or contact Jim Smith at wavocc@btconnect.com



Volunteer Forum March 2009

'Volunteering for all' was the main theme of a day of workshops and discussions held by the Volunteering Hub.

There were 65 people in attendance at Worcester Rugby Club on 14th of March. This event was part of a larger pilot project run by the Volunteering Hub with support of the Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales. This pilot aims to offer a point of information for disadvantaged people who want to volunteer, or who are already volunteering, on good practice and where to go for advice and a positive volunteering experience.

To deliver an exceptional event we doubled our resources by teaming up with Goldstar. Volunteer Coordinators, and staff working with volunteers from Worcestershire, shared ideas and good practice in supporting and

working with a diverse pool of volunteers. Four workshops were held and each workshop was run by specialists invited to bring in their expertise on the topic. The workshops focused on: working with volunteers with physical disabilities and learning difficulties; attracting and successfully working with volunteers from black and ethnic minority, involving volunteers from a socially deprived area and engaging volunteers with mental health issues. Franchie Williams, of the African Caribbean Project in Leamington Spa, motivational speaker,

talked about the need to create cultural awareness in organisations aiming to diversify their pool of volunteers to reflect the fabric of their local community.

We had a huge response to this event and prepared a written report that collates the

“the need to create cultural awareness”

work that has been done on the day. If you would like to see a copy of this report please check out

our website or contact Gabi Gogan, Partnership Officer.

The next Volunteer Forum will be held in October, please visit www.winc.org.uk/volunteering1 on the WIC website for more information.

Compact Re-brand and Summary

The Worcestershire Compact is the agreement that determines how Statutory Services bodies work with the Voluntary & Community Sector.

It was created after broad discussion and consultation with VCS representatives and adopted by the Worcestershire Partnership Board. It was officially launched in June 2006. The Worcestershire Compact Summary explains:

“Worcestershire’s Compact recognises the important role that the VCS plays in the way that services are delivered to local communities. In particular, they often provide services at a very local level, and are able to reach people and communities that other organisations don’t reach. The voluntary sector also has the ability to mobilise significant numbers of volunteers and plays an important role in speaking up for people who aren’t able to speak up for themselves.

“Worcestershire’s Compact will provide a very clear framework for the way that statutory and VCS organisations get together to provide services and should mean that Worcestershire

residents receive better services that are provided in a way that is right for them. It will also ensure respect and equality between the different organisations.”



Please see the WIC web pages for details of the newly re-branded:

Compact Brochure
Funding and Procurement Protocols
Compact Steering Group
Terms of Reference
Volunteering Code of Practice

The WIC Business Support Hub co-ordinates the provision of support available to all voluntary and community sector groups and organisations across Worcestershire

This support is delivered by all 12 of the WIC members and can include:

- Sector Network Meetings
- Advice on Governance and Management
- Support for Quality Standards & Outcomes-Focused Services
- Funding Advice
- Human Resources Advice
- Training and Development Opportunities
- Advice on Accommodation
- ICT Support
- Information about the Public Sector Procurement Environment
- Supporting Community Cohesion
- Supporting Marginalized Groups and Communities of Interest

For more information, please contact the Chair of the Business Support Hub, Mark Herriott via email: paulined@comfirst.org.uk

Also, let us know if you want to be added to our training email circulation list, to hear about opportunities as they become available



Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WRSASC) is a registered charity which was established in 1986. WRSASC provides a free, confidential and non-judgemental service for women who have experienced any form of rape or sexual abuse at any time. WRSASC is committed to raising awareness about the damaging effects that rape or sexual abuse can have on a woman's life.

An Introduction to ...

Most people presume that if they were raped, there would be a rape crisis centre to support them. It is the sort of resource that you hope will be in place if you, or a loved one, ever need it. The rest of the time, the rape and sexual abuse of women and children is something you probably choose not to think about. Sexual violence has a devastating impact on victims, their families and friends and wider society. The extent of sexual violence is huge, at least 47,000 women are raped every year in the UK. This is as many women as live in Bromsgrove, Redditch or Worcester City. Every 34 minutes a rape is reported to the Police in the UK. The NSPCC estimates that 1 in 5 women will be sexually assaulted before their 18th birthday.

WRSASC offers the following services:

Telephone support and information – for the survivor, families and friends, counselling for survivors (following initial assessment), professional Development training, accredited training for volunteers (Open College Network), provision of ongoing professional development for staff

and volunteers, supervision for external agency workers, independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA)

In 2007, WRSASC launched the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service (ISVA). This dedicated worker supports women within the Criminal Justice System, and to date has supported 148 women who have been raped and/or abused. This is the only ISVA working within the West Mercia Area and WRSASC are acutely aware that this role needs to be expanded.

Sexual violence needs to be raised as a local issue and funding secured from the local statutory agencies in order for WRSASC to be able to continue to provide this much needed support. The Home Office estimate that the health related cost of each rape case is £73,487. For the cost of 2 women a year, WRSASC can deliver a full service to support women across Worcestershire who have suffered any form of sexual abuse.

Helpline: 01905 724514

Office: 01905 611655

email: wrsasc@btconnect.com

Funding Opportunities with Worcestershire County Council

This is a last chance to look at grants from the County Council to support voluntary and community sector organisations in Worcestershire.

In Round 3 the County Council were offering Community Grants for one year or one off activity; to support voluntary and community sector organisations in Worcestershire whose activities contribute towards identified outcomes for the community. First Base Community Arts; to show how the arts can have a positive impact by bringing communities together. Celebrating Diversity Grants; grants to help voluntary and community sector organisations to contribute

to the celebration of diversity in the County. The grant application packs have been available from 30th March by calling 01905 766885, email sjones12@worcestershire.gov.uk or by logging on to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/voluntary and clicking on the 'VCS Grants' link. The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, May 15 at 4pm. Completed applications can either be delivered by hand to Main Reception at County Hall, or post it via recorded delivery in advance of the deadline. WIC can provide advice to help you complete this or future applications.

Please contact Ruth Christie on 01684 312742 or email ruthc@comfirst.org.uk