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Keeping Children and Young People Safe.

For all 'The Voice' submissions or queries please E-mail Jim Smith at [WAVOCC@btconnect.com](mailto:WAVOCC@btconnect.com)

Please contact 'The Voice' if you have any submissions for publication, or issues with the accessibility of this document. We are happy to distribute in other formats.

## A last chance to book a place at the WIC Annual Conference for the Voluntary and Community Sector 2008!

Worcester Rugby Football Club  
Sixways Premier Suite Upper  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
10am – 3pm

Speakers on the Themes of:

- Choice and Control
- Compact
- Safer Communities
- The Signposting Service

**There will also be afternoon workshops to sign-up to concerning:**

**Signposting:** 'How this could work for your organisation?'

**Compact :** 'How's Compact Working Three Years on?'

**Representation:** 'What is the role of the VCS Rep?'

**Volunteering:** 'What is the Value of Volunteers to your Organisation?'

**Business Support:** 'What does business Support mean in the Voluntary Sector?'

For further details please contact Jim Smith at:

[wavocc@btconnect.com](mailto:wavocc@btconnect.com)  
tel: 01684 575545

Attendance is free, lunch and refreshments are included.

## West Mercia Constabulary £10,000 funds for the VCS

Grants of up to £500 are being offered by the police to voluntary and community groups in North Worcestershire for projects that will help cut crime in the area.

The grants are available through a pilot scheme being run by the North Worcestershire Division of West Mercia Constabulary. Voluntary and community groups in Redditch, Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest are invited to bid for a share of £10,000 funding for 2008/9.

Projects must contribute to reducing crime, increase community safety or provide support for diverse communities.

Past funding has benefited projects providing diversionary activities for youngsters to reduce anti-social behaviour during school holidays; support for community open days; and crime prevention schemes including purse alarms to combat theft.

The funding is for schemes running from January to March 2009, and available to registered charities as well as voluntary and community groups. It is part of a Community Safety budget held by North Worcestershire Division which is working with representatives from the voluntary and community sector to ensure the application process is as simple and fair as possible.

Applications must be made by Friday, November 14, and those applying are being encouraged to discuss their bids with their Local Policing Teams.

Launching the pilot Support Services Manager for North Worcester Division, Rachel Hartland Lane, said: "We recognise that the timescales may be too tight for some organisations .....**Continued on Page 2**

**Continued from page 1:  
West Mercia Constable £10,000 fund**

to prepare new schemes so one option we are making available is for them to use the grants as match funding for existing projects where they may be struggling to find that extra bit of money.

"Some extremely worthwhile projects have been supported by similar funding in the past and these have proved very successful in reducing crime and boosting local communities.

"We hope these new community grants will help groups and organisations finance equally valuable work for the benefit of people living in North Worcestershire."

Application forms will be available on the West Mercia website at [www.westmercia.police.uk/press/Communitygrants.htm](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/press/Communitygrants.htm) where contact details for Local Policing Teams can be found along with more information about West Mercia Constabulary's key objectives. Applications must be posted for arrival by the closing date (November 14) and successful applications will be announced by December 10, 2008.

**News from WIC's  
Volunteering Hub**

**The Volunteering Forum October 2008:**

Forty Volunteer Coordinators from organisations from all over the county attended this event.

Together they looked at the opportunities that the Olympics 2012 can open up for the Voluntary Sector. Peter Turvey, the Worcestershire Opportunities Coordinator for the 2012 Games, presented the key points of the national and regional planning for the Olympics, including activating the brand and he also introduced the Cultural Olympiad. During the workshops attendees looked at the relevance of the Olympics for organisations working with volunteers: what events could be linked to the Cultural Olympiad and the legacy of the Olympics, how organisations could prepare to support a growing number of volunteers, and how organisations can ensure that they retain

volunteers beyond the Olympics. The results of the workshops have now been collated and form the basis of an action plan for the Volunteering Sector in Worcestershire to make the most of the opportunities offered by the 2012 Olympics.

For a copy please contact the Volunteering Hub Partnership Officer Gabi Gogan at:

M: 07525 335 184

[volunteeringhubworcs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:volunteeringhubworcs@yahoo.co.uk)

**News from WIC's  
VCS Voice Hub: LSP  
Representatives  
Listening Event**

There was a solid turn-out for WIC's VCS LSP Representative's Listening Event (10.09.08)



One VCS Representative attendee's testimonial stated 'The programme was well conceived and designed for the time allocated,' and that there were 'excellent interaction sessions' but that, 'I believe we all need further training.' Richard Quallington from Community First Chaired the Event - as below:



For further details please go to: <http://www.wavocc.org.uk/news>

**Training to Teach in  
the Lifelong Learning  
Sector**

Community First is carrying out research into best practice for the delivery and development of Initial Teacher Training in the Lifelong Learning Sector in Voluntary and Community organisations in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. We have already piloted and delivered a successful Preparation To Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTTLS) course in which all eleven VCS participants achieved their award. We are now looking at the support that people and organisations need with their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and progression onto higher level qualifications. We are interested in hearing from organisations who employ teachers/trainers/tutors who could help us with this research. If you would be prepared to have a short discussion about the issues for you or your organisation I would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact me [louisej@comfirst.org.uk](mailto:louisej@comfirst.org.uk) tel 01684 312756

**Care & Wellbeing  
Knowledgebase**

Consultation is now underway on a project to set up a shared signposting resource to be available to voluntary and statutory sector services.

This resource will contain information on care and wellbeing services and issues across the county of Worcestershire and is being jointly developed by a project team representing the main stakeholder groups. As a potential user of this system we are very interested in your views. If you visit the web address below after the 1st November you will be able to have an input into this exciting project.

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/home/WCC-social-knowledgebase>

For further information please contact the WCC Access Centre Manager, Andrew Morley, on 01905 768086.



## **Recent/Current Tenders from Worcestershire County Council**

The deadline for recent applications for Voluntary and Community Sector Grants was 4pm 31st October 2008. They included: Community Transport at £765,000, Older Peoples' Services at £352,257, Celebrating Cultural Diversity at £10,000, Carers Grants at £11,000, Community Based activity for Older People at £27,325.

For information on the next round of grants, and an application form, please visit:  
<http://worcestershire.whub.org.uk/home/wccindex/wcc-voluntary-sector.htm>

. Alternatively you can call the VCS Unit on 01905 766885 or email [SJones12@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:SJones12@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## **An Introduction to..... Worcestershire Signposting Service**

Under the Worcestershire Local Area Agreement and following on from the very successful service provided in Herefordshire, it was agreed there was a need to replicate the Signposting Service in Worcestershire.

Although faced with different areas and levels of need across six different borough councils, Signposting was launched across the Redditch and Bromsgrove locality in January 2008. The Service engages with our partner agencies who have front line members of staff currently visiting vulnerable adults within their own homes, and these are the people who are using the forms to access additional or new services for the occupant.

Signposting is proving to be a quick and easy route to access service providers that may be necessary to keep someone at home, living as safely as possible. Initially the plans were put in place and funding secured through Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and West Mercia Constabulary - Worcestershire Primary Care Trust have also contributed resources. The first year has been primarily to set up the service and engage with partner organisations to come on board. Promoting the service has taken many months and will be an ongoing process as the service spreads around the county benefiting hard to reach and vulnerable adults who should be in receipt of services or help they are not currently getting. There are approximately eight large statutory agencies involved presently, including The Pensions Service, there is a strong focus on tackling poverty issues for older people, and also for younger families with children who are

living in poverty.

There is a drive to engage with the Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to add value to this growing service, bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge the VCS could offer.

**(left) Jon Hall - Assistant Chief Fire Officer, (middle) Sue Keating Signposting Coordinator (right) Paul West - Chief Constable of West Mercia Constabulary**



## **News From WIC's Business Support Hub: Training Opportunities**

### **COSTING AND BID WRITING**

19 November 2008 10am – 4pm  
Arrow Valley Countryside Centre  
Redditch. To secure a place on the course complete the attached booking form and return it to Heather Leeks at Community First. email [heatherl@comfirst.org.uk](mailto:heatherl@comfirst.org.uk)

## **Do you represent the views of . . .**

- Children, Teenagers or Older Persons •
  - An ethnic group •
  - A religious or faith group •
  - The Gay & Lesbian community •
  - Women •
  - Disabled Persons •
- in Malvern Hills?

**Malvern Hills District Council** wants to find out the opinions of these communities to help improve our services.

If you represent these communities contact Fozia Yamin  
Tel: 01684 862263  
E-mail: [Fozia.Yamin@malvernhill.gov.uk](mailto:Fozia.Yamin@malvernhill.gov.uk)





**KEEPING CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
SAFE**

The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) plays an important role in delivering services and support to children, young people, their parents and carers. Safeguarding children and young people is the business of everyone involved in such groups and organisations.

In 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2006), the government stated that groups need to have policies and procedures in place in the same way as public sector organisations. VCS organisations take seriously their safeguarding responsibilities.

What is safeguarding? It is a relatively new term, which is broader than 'child protection' as it also, includes health and safety, risk assessment and safe recruitment etc..

The Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) was set up under The Children Act 2004. It is responsible for agreeing how partner agencies, including the VCS, should cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Michael Hunter, from WCVYS, is the voluntary sector representative on the Board and Sharon Weston, from KidzFirst, is on the Executive. For more information about WSCB, including training courses, go to the website: [www.worcestershiresafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.worcestershiresafeguarding.org.uk)

The VCS is a very diverse sector working across all communities. Every group and organisation is different so while the principles around safeguarding stay the same the protocols and practices need to be designed to fit.

But you are not on your own. Help is available: developing the policies and procedures that are appropriate for your group, awareness sessions about safeguarding and child protection, training courses, for example, about managing allegations and e-safety advice, and support for you and your organisation if concerns are raised.

WCVYS, with the support of WSCB, has produced a Guidance document. This is available on the website [www.wcvys.co.uk](http://www.wcvys.co.uk). Paper copies can be obtained by contacting the office on 01905 795098. A leaflet outlining the responsibilities of trustees is also available.

There is a strong commitment within the VCS to safeguarding children and young people. Some organisations have first class policies, procedures and ensure their workers are well trained. For others, including new groups as they develop, there is still work to be done.

Management committee members, other volunteers and paid staff must work together to create an environment and culture within their group, which lives up to the important role the VCS plays in safeguarding children and young people.



**Worcestershire  
Short Breaks Project**

**In partnership with  
Worcestershire County  
Council**

**Would you enjoy helping  
local families with disabled  
children?**

Have you got patience,  
energy and a sense of fun?

We have a fantastic  
opportunity for you to join  
our team of carers and  
volunteers.

You can receive generous fees  
and allowances and work  
from home at the same time.  
For more information, please

contact **01905 778275**

[www.barnardos.org.uk/  
worcestershireshortbreaks](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/worcestershireshortbreaks)

[worces-  
shire.shortbreaks@barnard  
os.org.uk](mailto:worcestershire.shortbreaks@barnardos.org.uk)



**BELIEVE IN CHILDREN**

**CHARITY BENEFIT  
CONCERT**

*In aid of*



*Care for the child,  
support for the family*

Registered charity no. 700859

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
The Forum Theatre, Malvern at  
8pm featuring:**

**THE JOHNNY CASH  
ROADSHOW**

**Tickets: £16 (Concessions £15)**

*Malvern Theatres Box Office,  
Grange Road, Malvern, Also avail-  
able online @  
[www.malvern-tickets.co.uk](http://www.malvern-tickets.co.uk)*