

BEDS-SPREAD

August 2009

FUNDING CENTRAL

The smart guide to over 4,000 grants, contracts and loans

Funding Central was launched in June 2009 and is a new free smart website for all third sector organisations, including community groups, providing access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, plus a wealth of tools and resources supporting organisations to develop sustainable income strategies appropriate to their needs.

If you are completely or relatively new to fundraising, Funding Central provides a guided search enabling you to identify the most appropriate funding and finance opportunities that best suit you and the beneficiaries that you support. As an experienced fundraiser, you can drill down through thousands of opportunities to identify the most appropriate funding or finance for your organisation using the advanced search.

Funding Central is managed by the **National Council for Voluntary Organisations** in partnership with **j4b Software and Publishing** and is funded by the **Office of the Third Sector**.

Website: www.fundingcentral.org.uk



**Community &
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Radio station **Biggles FM** (www.bigglesfm.com) were the winners of the £50 voucher for completing the evaluation questionnaire at June's Funding Fayre. The photo above shows **Maxine Hayes** from **CVS** handing over the vouchers to **Alan Waring** of **BigglesFM**. The station is run by volunteers and has recently heard that they have been awarded a full-time Community Radio Licence.

Stop Press

**Bedford Borough
Assembly**

Friday 27th November 2009
University of Bedfordshire, Polhill Campus

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QUALITY STANDARDS

PQASSO Quality Mark receives Charity Commission stamp of approval

The **Charity Commission** has announced its endorsement of the **PQASSO Quality Mark** - the new 'kite-mark' for the third sector. **Dame Suzi Leather, Chair of the Charity Commission**, was "delighted to welcome the **PQASSO Quality Mark** to our growing family of endorsed quality standards". Organisations that achieve the **PQASSO Quality Mark** at levels 2 and 3 will be able to use the **Charity Commission's Charity Quality Standards** stamp confirming that they are accredited by standards that meet the **Hallmarks of an Effective Charity**.

PQASSO, developed by **Charities Evaluation Services (CES)**, is widely recognised as one of the leading quality systems in the third sector. This announcement gives the assurance that the standards comply with those of the regulator, at a time when the role of accredited quality standards is growing in importance for the sector.

Dame Suzi stated "Without evidence of both beneficiary need and a charity's ability to meet that need in terms of quality and fitness-for-purpose, there is no compelling reason for a funder to hand over cash or a commissioning authority to award the contract".

CES is confident that the **PQASSO Quality Mark** together with the new endorsement will play a lead role in enhancing the credibility and sustainability of the sector.

Jane Owen at **CVS** can help you in your quest to attain a quality mark, whether it is **PQASSO** or one of the others relating to third sector organisations. For more information contact **Jane Owen** on **01234 354366** or at jane@yourcvs.org



USEFUL RESOURCES

- **KnowHow NonProfit** - is a ground breaking E-learning project to deliver an online learning resource exclusively for the non-profit sector. The website aims to help people across the sector develop and share their expertise and experience. As well as content, discussions and case studies, the site features a soap opera about events in the non-profit organisations of a fictional town. **Millcaster Tales** uses anonymous real-life situations to raise issues and stimulate discussion. This has been dreamed up, designed, written and piloted by a cohort of volunteers. The website is an extremely useful resource as it claims to include 'everything and everyone you need to run a non-profit organisation' and delivers on that promise. You can access the website at www.knowhownonprofit.org
- **Charity Property Help** - is a pro-bono service designed to assist charities and voluntary organisations, by providing free support and guidance on all property matters in the UK. www.charitypropertyhelp.com
- **Contingency Planning for Swine Flu** - the **National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)** has brought together a range of useful links giving information around contingency planning for swine flu. How would your organisation cope in the absence of key individuals or a high percentage of frontline staff? <http://digbig.com/5bacsf>. Personnel professionals' body the **Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD)** has also further updated its introductory guidance on how employers should respond at www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/health/general/birdflu.htm

UPCOMING CVS TRAINING

Fundraising and the Law

Tuesday 15th September

This course will cover the main laws and regulations that organisations and community groups need to be aware of in their fundraising activities. The workshop will be useful to both managers and Trustees/Management Committee members and those directly involved in fundraising.

Data Protection and Confidentiality

Tuesday 22nd September - Sue Ryder Care, Moggerhanger

The aim of this one-day training workshop is to explain how the 1998 Data Protection Act and related legislation affect voluntary organisations. It will give participants the opportunity to explore the practical implications for their own organisations

Getting Tender Ready

Tuesday 29th September

If you want to know about tenders, contracts and how your group needs to prepare itself for this brave new world, this is the place to start. The workshop will focus on public sector funding, so it's a must for those considering this approach.

Project Management

Thursday 1st October

Getting the funding can sometimes be the easy bit. You then have to make the project work. This course is aimed at those with little to no experience of managing a project. It will examine the importance of project management, and give an overview of the key issues to consider.

Creating a Better Business Plan

Thursday 8th October

If you are looking for larger amounts of funding, most funders will expect applicants to have a Business Plan. This course will explain what a Business Plan should include and how it can help with developing and sustaining the work of your organisation.

Costing for Contracts

Wednesday 14th October

The aim of this workshop is to give participants the confidence to deal with all aspects of costing and pricing for services or projects. You will also learn how to use practical tools and techniques for working things out that can be applied to your own situation.

Coming Soon

- **Volunteers and the Law – Safety and Security** – Wednesday 21st October
- **Making a Good Funding Application** – Thursday 3rd December
- **Charities, Tax and VAT** – Thursday 28th January 2010
- **Recruitment and Interview Skills** – Autumn/Winter 2009
- **Developing an Effective Equal Opportunities Policy** – Autumn/Winter 2009
- **Improving Staff Performance** – Autumn/Winter 2009
- **Health and Safety in the Workplace** – Winter 2010

Workshop Bookings

Cost and bookings for these workshops: £12 per delegate

Normal Venue: CVS, 43 Bromham Road, Bedford, MK40 2AA

For further details please contact **Jan** at **CVS** on **01234 354366** or email: **jan@yourcvs.org.uk**

Training Workshops are supported by:

The Big Lottery Fund, CapacityBuilders, East of England Development Agency (EEDA), Central Bedfordshire Council, the Bedford Charity and the Volunteer Centre Bedford

New online training programme for the Children's Workforce

The **AKAMAS Online Induction/Foundation** programme (available from September 2009) provides essential learning for everyone in the children's workforce during their first two years in practice. The courses are ideal to fill gaps where traditional training is difficult to access or resource. A wide range of courses is available, and employers or individuals can decide which are appropriate for their needs. The programme is founded on the experience and expertise of a group of gold-standard training providers who supply content for the online courses. The programme includes courses relevant to volunteers or staff working with children and young people in any setting, including family and parenting support roles. The benefits of the training are:

1) Courses are available as and when needed, 2) Students can study at their own pace, 3) Organisations can easily track student progress, 4) Training is mapped to national standards, 5) Free to those working in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire

For full details of current and forthcoming courses please contact **Lesley Baker** at the **Family Matters Institute**: email Lesley@familymatters.org.uk tel: **01767 641002**

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FUNDING

Hardship Fund

The Hardship Fund is currently open for applications. The fund forms part of the **Government's Real Help for Communities Action Plan**. **The Hardship Fund** offers grants between £50,000 and £250,000 to provide support to third sector organisations in England delivering front-line services to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in society. To apply, organisations must have annual turnovers of at least £200,000 and deliver services in health and social care, housing support, education and training, or information, advice and guidance. Grants will be paid from October 2009 and need to be spent by September 2010. Go to **Hardship Fund** on the **Community Development Foundation website** (www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/hardship-fund) to download the guidelines and application form.

Community Cashback

Community Cashback is a new scheme operated by the **Criminal Justice System (CJS)**, that will distribute £4million of recovered criminal assets (for example confiscated cash or property) to community projects. Local people can nominate projects or have their say on suggested projects via a dedicated website. You can register on the website to either suggest a project or have your say on someone else's project. See <http://cashback.cjsonline.gov.uk/index.html>. Projects should:

- Relate to nuisance, anti-social or criminal behaviour or its impact on the community
- Focus on one or several neighbourhoods
- Be community-focused and make a noticeable difference to the community
- Demonstrate value for money and be able to be delivered quickly
- Have visible outcomes to the community

Co-operative Community Fund

After a period of closure, the **Co-operative Community Fund** has re-opened. The fund offers grants of between £100 and £2,000 for community, voluntary or self-help groups to carry out positive work in the community. Projects must: 1) Address a community issue, 2) Provide a good long-term benefit to the community, 3) Support co-operative values and principles, 4) Ideally be innovative in their approach

There are some exclusions. See www.co-operative.coop/membership/Community-Fund for these, and for information on how to apply.

Youth Music's Open Programme

The programme offers grants of £5,000 - £30,000 for projects providing structured, regular and progressive music-making activities for children and young people. The three priority areas are: 1) Working with early years, 2) Children and young people in challenging circumstances, 3) Encouraging talent.

Projects should be working with children and young people aged 0-18 (or up to 25 if they have special educational needs, disabilities or are in detention).

The deadlines for applications are 10th August, 10th November 2009, 10th February, 10th May 2010. You can visit the www.youthmusic.org.uk/looking_for_music_funding/Open_programme.html for full details.

Download the Updated Fundraising Toolkit



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FUNDING

Funding Workshops

Fit for Funding

This workshop will cover all the basics to get you to the stage where your organisation will be able to apply for funding. We will go through all the documentation you will need, including your governing document, policies, budgeting, and explain the basics of outcomes and demonstrating need. There will also be the opportunity to go through examples of funding applications and guidance on the use of our resources area, including a demonstration of **funderfinder** and **trustfunding.org.uk/companygiving.org.uk**.

- **Tuesday 8th September 2009 (10am - 12pm)**
- **Thursday 1st October 2009 (7pm - 9pm)**
- **Saturday 31st October 2009 (10am - 12pm)**



Demonstrating Need and Understanding Outcomes

This workshop will build on the skills you gained from the **Fit for Funding** workshop and will explain how to identify and explain the need for your work, plus define aims, outcomes, targets and milestones. Through using practical examples and an interactive workshop we aim to make sense of some of the most common problems groups have when making funding applications.

- **Monday 21st September 2009 (7pm - 9pm)**



If you would like to attend one of the workshops please contact **Kay Brennan** on **01234 354366** or email **kay@yourcvs.org**

Village SOS

Village SOS is an exciting initiative from the **Big Lottery Fund (BIG)** and the **BBC**. It is searching for six UK villages with a great business idea and six enterprising individuals to act as Village Champions and help them achieve their ambitions. Together they will create a brand new venture that will bring new life and energy to the village with funding of between £100,000 and £400,000 from **BIG**. The journey of the six successful villages and their Village Champions will be filmed for a major prime time **BBC One** series in winter 2010. Applications need to be received by 12pm, 14th August 2009. Website: <http://digbig.com/5bacpr>

Open Up Initiatives

Open Up Initiatives are groups and individuals working to raise awareness about mental health and challenge discrimination in their local area. We select 16 groups or individuals to become an **Open Up Initiative** (2 in each region of England) and work with them over a period of one year. The scheme helps people to get their Initiatives up and running through providing an average of £2500 towards expenses - plus training, mentoring and promotions support.

The deadline for applications is 15th August 2009.

For more information visit the website www.open-up.org.uk/initiatives or contact **Mind** by telephone, **020 8519 2122** or ouinitiatives@mind.org.uk



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FUNDING

Comic Relief

Comic Relief has published its 2009 – 2012 strategy, outlining the UK grant programmes:

- Mental health
- Domestic and sexual abuse
- Refugee and asylum seeking women
- Sport for change
- Local communities
- Sexually-exploited and trafficked young people
- Young people and alcohol
- Young people and mental health
- Work in development (programmes for older people and young carers which are not yet open)



There are no minimum or maximum grant amounts in most of the programme areas. However most grants on average are between £25,000 - £40,000 per year. Grants are for between one and three years. **Comic Relief** class young people as aged 11 to 25.

Running costs, project costs and capital costs are covered. However building costs are a very low priority, and these are only funded in exceptional circumstances. Capital costs are not funded if they are part of a much larger appeal. It is unlikely large grants will be made to very small organisations.

Voluntary and community sector organisations including constituted voluntary and community groups, charities, social enterprises, co-operatives, faith organisations, and community interest companies are eligible to apply. For more information visit the www.comicrelief.com or contact them by telephone, **020 7820 5555**, or info@comicrelief.com

Cash 4 Clubs

Cash 4 Clubs offers all sports clubs in the UK the chance to win grants ranging from £250 to £1000. It is a simple scheme aimed at giving community clubs a helping hand and providing the opportunity to raise the money they need to invest in their club. You can apply at any time. Decisions are made at quarterly intervals throughout the year. The winners are chosen by a judging panel consisting of representatives from **Betfair**, **SportsAid** and other panellists who provide further input and an independent perspective.

There is full information available from the website at <http://cash-4-clubs.com/>
The application form can be accessed here: <http://cash-4-clubs.com/apply-for-a-grant/application-form.php>

GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT Awards

The IMPACT Awards are designed to recognise and reward charities that are doing excellent work to improve people's health. They are funded by **GlaxoSmithKline** and managed in partnership with **The King's Fund**. The awards are open to registered charities that are at least three years old, working in a health-related field in the UK, with a total annual income between £10,000 and £1 million. An overall winner will receive £35,000, nine other winners receive £25,000 and up to ten organisations that are highly-commended or runners-up receive £5,000 or £3,000. You do not need to present a new project. The awards are designed to recognise success and achievements for existing work. You decide how to use the award money. For more information visit www.kingsfund.org.uk

Deadline for applications for the 2010 awards is 5pm on Friday 25th September 2009.

SNIPPETS

Tackling Poverty Together in Bedfordshire

Bedfordshire's Tackling Poverty Together Group (TPT Group) is a county-wide forum of organisations that are concerned about tackling poverty and promoting social inclusion. The **TPT Group** currently has 25 members from the statutory and voluntary sectors across Bedfordshire. The Group was formed in 1998 following Bedfordshire's first anti-poverty conference in November 1997. Since then the Group has acted as an information exchange forum on poverty issues between key agencies in the county from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

The aims of the **TPT Group** are to:

- Provide a regular countywide forum for members to discuss anti-poverty issues and initiatives
- Encourage the development of initiatives and projects in Bedfordshire to tackle poverty and promote social inclusion
- Influence the development of local anti-poverty/social inclusion policies

The **TPT Group** publishes a quarterly newsletter, **Poverty News**, which provides an update of local and national poverty issues. The newsletter has a dedicated section on Child Poverty with regular updates on the work of the newly-formed **Bedfordshire Child Poverty Task Group and Network** and recent issues can be downloaded from the **TPT** website.

The **TPT Group** website – www.tacklingpoverty-beds.org.uk gives regular information on **TPT Group** activities and poverty issues. The website also gives an insight into the local initiatives that the **TPT Group** has been involved in to try and have a more direct influence on local poverty issues. These initiatives vary from research papers identifying gaps in the local provision of benefits advice and the development of a credit union in Mid Bedfordshire to the facilitation of initial discussions on the development of an indicator on tackling child poverty in **Bedfordshire's Local Area Agreement**. Copies of research papers and reports can be freely downloaded from the site.

The website is also a portal for any poverty-related issues within Bedfordshire and the **TPT Group** welcomes any input from other groups that would like to advertise an event or activity that is related to poverty within the community.

Credit Union Update

My name is **Anne Slade, Development Officer, Bedford Credit Union**, helping to expand the **Credit Union** into North Central Bedfordshire (formerly Mid Bedfordshire). Our new collection point at **Shefford Baptist Church** opened on the 22nd January 2009, and so far 60 new members have joined.

The good news about **Credit Unions** is they are run by the community offering a local friendly service.

We are planning to establish more collection points in North Central Bedfordshire – are you interested in volunteering to help expand our service? We are looking for people to help champion and market the benefits of the new **Credit Union** services to potential members in the community. In addition to this we are also looking for people to help out with the operation of collection points, including helping to join new members, and dealing with the financial transactions of customers.

All volunteers receive training and ongoing support. If you are interested and want to find out more, please contact **Anne Slade**, Tel: **07596 927 404**, email bedcumb@tiscali.co.uk

Community and Voluntary Service - Your CVS
www.yourcv.org.uk

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SNIPPETS

Living Countryside Awards

The Bedfordshire branch of the **Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)** was founded in 1987 and is the local branch of **CPRE**.

Bedfordshire is one of the smallest counties but has diverse landscapes, habitats and areas of designated Areas of Special Scientific Interest. For example, the **Barton Hills** and **Dunstable Downs**, which lie within the **Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**.

CPRE Bedfordshire seeks to protect and enhance Bedfordshire's countryside and its rural communities through monitoring local and strategic planning proposals. We are also involved with a number of national **CPRE** campaigns including the '**Stop the Drop**' anti-litter campaign, which aims to reduce litter and illegal fly-tipping in the countryside.

Living Countryside Awards scheme launched by **CPRE Bedfordshire** aims to recognise and applaud landowners or commercial users of the land who are making special efforts to preserve and enhance the visual appearance, biodiversity and tranquillity of Bedfordshire. This scheme follows the success of last year's **Countryside and Design Awards**.

Five Categories: 1) Landscape Improvement, 2) Countryside Craft, 3) Leisure and Infrastructure Landscape, 4) Historic Landscape, 5) Next Generation Landscapes

Deadline 31st August. Application forms from the **CPRE** office **01234 353331** or from the website: www.cprebeds.plus.com/pdf/living_countryside_awards_2009.pdf

Something not many people know about the British Red Cross!

The **British Red Cross** have a **Skin Camouflage Service** whose aim is to offer a way of help for people to cope with scarring or disfiguring skin conditions. Figures show that one-in-four people in the country have a skin problem.

How does the service work? Our trained volunteers select the best colour match for each person's natural skin tone. We then teach them how to apply the cover creams to improve the appearance of the affected areas. This can be any part of the face or body. The creams, which are available on prescription, can provide an effective, waterproof cover for a wide range of skin conditions, including Vitiligo, Rosacea, birthmarks, leg veins, pigmentation problems and scarring.

The service is free, but we welcome donations to help support the service. Who can benefit from the service? The service is available to anyone. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from the service, go to your GP or consultant and get a letter of referral, then contact the **Red Cross Skin Camouflage Service** on **0844 412 2830** for an appointment at your nearest clinic.

Beds-Spread is the Newsletter of **Community & Voluntary Service Mid and North Bedfordshire, 43 Bromham Road, Bedford, MK40 2AA**. Tel: **01234 354366**. Email: info@yourcvs.org. Website: www.yourcvs.org. Registered Charity: **1091423**. Company limited by guarantee, Registered in England No. **4312967**.

Beds-Spread is distributed to voluntary and community groups across Mid and North Bedfordshire, as well as to Town and Parish Councils, Councillors (Central Bedfordshire Council & Bedford Borough Council) and to local libraries. **Beds-Spread** is also available to download from our website at www.yourcvs.org, where previous copies can also be accessed.

Please note: Every care is taken to provide accurate information, however **CVS** accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions in, or complaints arising from, items in this publication. Inclusion of information in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by **CVS**. Please feel free to replicate any articles, as long as you credit **CVS**.

Contributions are welcomed. Send copy to **Mark Smith** at mark@yourcvs.org. Deadline for next issue of **Beds-Spread**: **4th September 2009**

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