

BEDS-SPREAD

February 2011

Bedford Foodbank

A meeting has been arranged to explore the viability of setting up a **Bedford Foodbank** similar to those in Milton Keynes and Cambridge. We look forward to welcoming any interested parties on **Wednesday 9th March from 12pm to 2pm** (a light lunch will be provided).

Bedford Foodbank will be an independent charity that works across the churches. Whilst the foodbank will be a Christian organisation, it will serve people of all faith groups and beliefs or none. We are passionate about inclusion and being non-judgemental is central to our vision. We believe that everyone has the right to have food on their plate, dignity, skills, a chance to be sign-posted to appropriate support networks, to work, and to have hope for the future. Our vision is to build a community where people of all backgrounds feel included and where they have the opportunity to live with dignity and hope. The food bank will provide free groceries amongst other linked services, so that no-one has to go to bed hungry.

How a foodbank works? Foodbank vouchers issued by statutory agencies or other charities can be redeemed at the foodbank. The vouchers entitle clients to a box containing 10 meals (3 days' supply of emergency food). Volunteers meet clients over a cup of tea and signpost them to agencies able to assist with any longer-term issues.

For further information please contact **Peter** on **01234 325217**. **Sue Wall** from **MK Foodbank** will be joining us and will talk through their project. Could you kindly advise for catering purposes if you would like to attend by emailing **Kevin, Salvation Army Centre Administrator** kevin.sandford@salvationarmy.org.uk.

Is your ICT worth the money you spent on it? Can your ICT survive a disaster?

In the third sector it's often impossible to access independent, quality, corporate-level advice for ICT, either purchasing or ongoing maintenance, without the cost having a significant impact. The **Voluntary Works Consortium**, funded by the **Big Lottery**, have in place in Bedfordshire an ICT Development Advisor who can provide corporate level ICT assistance and consultancy at no cost to you or your organisation. Contact **Dez Carruthers** on **01234 354366** or at dez@yourcvs.org to find out more.



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Criminal Records Checks Scaled Back

The government has unveiled plans to scale back the **Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS)** and criminal records regime to common-sense levels while ensuring vulnerable groups are appropriately protected. The proposals include:

- merging the **Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)** and **Independent Safeguarding Authority** to form a streamlined new body providing a proportionate barring and criminal records checking service
- a large reduction in the number of positions requiring checks. Only those working closely and regularly with children and vulnerable adults will need them
- portability of criminal records checks between jobs to cut down on needless bureaucracy
- an end to a requirement for those working or volunteering with vulnerable groups to register with the **VBS** and then be continuously monitored
- stopping employers who knowingly request criminal records checks on individuals who are not entitled to them

The aforementioned proposals will be included in the **Protection of Freedoms Bill** and subject to parliamentary approval, the Bill is expected to become law by early 2012.

Your CVS serving the local Voluntary and Community Sector

Registered Charity: 1091423

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

'Build a Social Business: Personalisation' Conference

3rd March 2011 - The Corn Exchange Bedford - 9.30am (Registration) to 3.30pm (including lunch)

CVS, in close cooperation with **Bedford Borough Council** and **Social Enterprise East of England** are pleased to announce that the '**Build a Social Business Conference**' will take place at the Corn Exchange Bedford on 3rd March 2011. This conference has been designed for those interested in providing adult health and social care services to the public including:

- Representatives of not-for-profit organisations including trustees, managers, and staff
- Anybody who wishes to establish new social businesses for this purpose

This conference will inform delegates about the transformation of the 'Social Care Market' which is happening both locally and across the rest of England. It will explore how existing social businesses will need to gear up to the changes as well as identify potential business opportunities that are emerging. This conference will also inform delegates about **Bedford Borough Council's 'Market Shaping Strategy'** which has recently been circulated for consultation (during January 2011).

Keynote speakers include:

- **Jo Hawthorn, Head of Transformation, Bedford Borough Council**
- **George Hunt, Head of Commissioning, Bedford Borough Council**

There will be workshops on:

- Marketing (Social Enterprise East of England)
- Costing, Pricing and Financial Controls in the New Business Environment (Community Accounting Plus)
- Starting a Social Enterprise (Business Link)

If you would like to attend this conference please contact Mandy Field on 01234 354366 or email her at mandy@yourcvs.org

N. B. Although no charge is being made for this conference the organisers reserve the right to charge £15 for non-attendance (to cover the immediate costs involved) if apologies are not received at least 24 hours before the start of this event.



SAFEGUARDING

Fit for Safeguarding Workshop

Tuesday 1st March 2011- 12pm to 3.30pm - 43 Bromham Road, Bedford

The course is for you if you belong to a local community group that wants to develop your understanding of safeguarding and would like tools and resources to use to improve practice in your group. The aim of the workshop is to develop understanding of safeguarding and improve safeguarding practice in community groups.

E-learning - An essential part of this course is the safeguarding e-learning which has been provided by the **Local Safeguarding Children Board for Bedfordshire**. For the first part of the session, learners will complete the e-learning using the computers that we will provide. If you have already completed the **Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect - Foundation Version E-Learning** and you can provide a copy of your certificate, please contact us. You may come to the second part of the session which starts at 2.00pm. If you have access to a computer connected to the internet and would like to complete the e-learning before attending the course, please contact **Jane Owen** at jane@yourcvs.org or on **01234 354366**. If you want to book your place on the workshop please contact **Mandy Field** at mandy@yourcvs.org or on **01234 354366**.

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UPCOMING CVS TRAINING

HR Issues for Non-Specialist Staff

Tuesday 22nd February 2011
Weatherley Centre, Biggleswade

This one-day introductory workshop will look briefly at the framework of employment legislation; recent important changes including the Equality Act; and will enable participants to understand the boundaries and responsibilities of the HR role.



Employing Staff - Contracts and Appointments

Wednesday 2nd March 2011
Weatherley Centre, Biggleswade

This one-day course will introduce you to the basis of the law and good practice in relation to contracts of employment. It will look at the most common forms of contract including fixed-term contracts, and contracts for bank and locum staff. We will cover what has to be in a contract and look at good practice clauses. A model contract and letter of appointment will be included in the notes. Bring your own contract of employment for an audit. We will use a mixture of quizzes and case studies to explore this ever-more complex issue.

Workshop Bookings

Cost for these workshops: £12 per delegate
(the £12 fee will be refunded upon attendance)

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



These two training workshops are supported by:

Central Bedfordshire Council and EEDA

UPCOMING TRAINING

Relate - Moving Forward - A One Day Workshop

Practical help for divorced and separated people from **Relate**, the relationship experts. In this workshop we can help you come to terms with divorce or separation and start to rebuild your life and face the future with confidence. The workshop will be run by a **Relate** qualified trainer, and is designed to help participants:

- Deal with endings
- Understand the effects of loss
- How to cope with change
- Identify your support systems
- Encourage more self-confidence



Saturday 26th March 2011 - £35.00 per place - St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford - 10am to 4.30pm (half-hour lunch). Interested in joining us? : Contact **Education and Learning at Relate**, on training@relatebedsandluton.org.uk or phone 01234 342503 for more information and booking form.

Charity and Social Enterprise Management

Anglia Ruskin University has developed a two-year, part-time Cert HE course following in-depth consultation with the voluntary sector. The course has been designed to develop the broad range of skills and understanding needed to manage staff, stakeholders and projects, and to help organisations achieve their strategic objectives. The course has been developed especially for people already working as a paid employee, volunteer or trustee in the voluntary sector, in particular those people who are working in leadership roles or who aspire to do so. The course includes modules on leadership and management, social enterprise, financial management, marketing, human resource management and social impact management. Students will need to attend eight workshop sessions per year at the Cambridge campus, whilst other projects and learning will be carried out in the students' own time. More details can be found at www.anglia.ac.uk/csemanagement

Course fees: £823 per annum for March 2011 start. Call 0845 196 5992 or email higherskills@anglia.ac.uk

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FUNDING

GRANTnet is now available from Central Beds Council

Is your community or voluntary group looking for funding? **Central Bedfordshire Council** now offers access to **GRANTnet**, a straightforward free-to-use funding database. The service allows community and voluntary groups, charities and social enterprises to search for funding opportunities in the UK. The searchable database includes hundreds of schemes available from government departments, local authorities, charitable trusts, loans and corporate sponsors. Once you have registered with **GRANTnet**, you will be emailed a password to access the system. Once you have logged on and answered a few simple questions about your organisation and the project which you wish to undertake, **GRANTnet** will give an overview of all the opportunities available. To find out more go to the Grants page under the Advice and Benefits section of the council's website www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

The Panacea Society

Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation is operating a small grants fund on behalf of the **Panacea Society**. The aim of this fund is to provide grants for projects run by community groups based in, or working for the benefit of people in the town of Bedford. The fund will accept bids from projects or groups whose work involves mental health issues in one form or another or for other general projects that the partners feel to be appropriate. The maximum you can apply for is £5,000. There is no minimum sum. However, grants in excess of £2,500 will be the exception rather than the rule.

Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation, The Smithy, The Barn, Old Warden, Beds, SG18 9HQ.
E-mail: administrator@blcf.org.uk. Website: www.blcf.org.uk/grants

Healthy Heart Community Grants

Community groups can now apply to national charity, **Heart Research UK**, for new **SUBWAY HRUK Healthy Heart Grants**. The grants are available as a result of the partnership between the two organisations and in-store regional fundraising by staff and customers in **SUBWAY** stores. Grants of up to £10,000 are available for projects that reduce the risk of developing heart disease, or improve the lives of those already affected by it. Projects can focus on a variety of issues like healthy eating, physical activity and smoking cessation. They should be as original as possible to encourage participation and have to be centred on heart health.

Community groups across the Anglia region can apply for the grants, as long as there are stores in their area and in Bedfordshire there are stores in Bedford, Dunstable and Luton. Groups in this region can apply until 28th February 2011. To apply for a **SUBWAY HRUK Healthy Heart Grant** please download application materials from the **Heart Research UK** website at www.heartresearch.org.uk/grants/subwayhhg



Important
DATE!

Funding Fayre 2011

Wednesday 15th June 2011
Bedford Corn Exchange



Important
DATE!

An event full of funding-related information, training and advice for local voluntary and community groups.

Whether your group needs just a hundred pounds or thousands of pounds, the **Funding Fayre** is the place to start looking, so put the date in your diary now!

Further information will be available from April and will be sent out to our membership and will additionally be available from www.yourcvs.org

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FUNDING

Fit for Funding Workshops

These workshops will cover all the basics to get you to the stage where your organisation will be able to apply for funding. The next workshops at the **CVS** office are on:

- **Tuesday 1st March 2011 - 7pm to 9pm**
- **Tuesday 22nd March 2011 - 10am to 12pm** (in Biggleswade)
- **Saturday 2nd April 2011 - 10am to 12pm**
- **Thursday 5th May 2011 - 7pm to 9pm**



To build on the skills you gain from the **Fit for Funding** workshop we are running our **Demonstrating Need and Understanding Outcomes** workshop and will explain how to identify the need for your work, plus define aims, outcomes, targets and milestones. The next workshop is on:

- **Thursday 7th April 2011 - 7pm to 9pm**

If you would like to attend one of the workshops please contact **Mandy Field** on **01234 354366** or email mandy@yourcvs.org

Getting Funding and Planning Successful Projects: BIG's Guide to Outcomes

Big Lottery Fund is an outcomes funder and is driven by the difference its funding makes for individuals and communities. They have recently revised their approach to outcomes and have produced '**Getting Funding and Planning Successful Projects**' for organisations applying for a **Big Lottery Fund** grant. It is a simple step-by-step introduction to the fundamental concepts and principles that you will need to know about if you are going to apply for funding from them or many other funders. It is worth investing some time in exploring this resource, as it will help you increase your chances of getting funding and of making a difference once you do.

BIG's Guide to Outcomes is designed to be flexible. You can move around the sections or work through them in sequence, depending on which topic you are interested in, how much information you require, or the size and complexity of your project or programme. You can access this useful resource by visiting www.biglearningzone.org.uk

John Lewis Partnership Golden Jubilee Trust

The **John Lewis Partnership Golden Jubilee Trust** gives UK-registered charities the opportunity to benefit from the skills of the **John Lewis/Waitrose** workforce. This is an ongoing scheme that allows members of staff (or partners) to be released on full pay to work with a charity in their area. Secondments are flexible, from one week to six months, on a full or part-time basis, depending on what the job requires. It is a competitive scheme, allowing around 45 charities to benefit each year. Trustees meet in the spring and autumn to consider applications and make the awards. Applications can happen via charities letting them know of their need and, if appropriate, they can advertise that on our internal website in the hope of finding a partner willing and able to take up the request. Contact **Chris Jones** (Manager **Golden Jubilee Trust**, Partnership) at chris_l_jones@johnlewis.co.uk for more information or visit <http://tinyurl.com/3242tso>

Looking for Funding?

Why not make an appointment to use the CVS Funding Search Resources (with access to FunderFinder and Trust Funding Search Software and our library of Grantmaking related books)

To make an appointment to use our resources, contact **Linda Candita** at Linda@yourcvs.org or call **01234 354366**

SNIPPETS

Real Power for Communities

The **Localism Bill** is currently making its way through **Parliament**. The Bill proposes new rights for local charities and community groups. It is hoped that these rights will make it easier for a local charity to take over an unused building or to bid to take over a failing local service.

The **Real Power for Communities** campaign has been set up by **NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action)**, **Development Trusts Association**, **ACRE (Action for Communities in Rural England)** and others to ensure that the **Localism Bill** supports local voluntary action. The campaign seeks to strengthen these rights by lobbying MPs during the legislative process.

To show your support for the campaign, please register at www.rp4c.org.uk. It will take just 30 seconds to register and your support will help make sure the **Localism Bill** brings the local voluntary and community sector important new powers.

The State of the Sector in the Eastern Region Survey

COVER (Community and Voluntary Forum: Eastern Region) is carrying out an important piece of work investigating the current state of the voluntary and community sector in the East of England. The results of this survey will be used to influence policy-makers on behalf of the sector at a regional and national level, and will be available to the sector to use locally as well. We would like to hear from you about your experiences. The research is looking at the following questions:

- How have voluntary and community sector organisations fared during recent political and economic changes?
- What's the outlook for the coming months?
- What are the main issues that the sector is dealing with?



If you are a social enterprise, charity or not-for-profit organisation operating anywhere in the East of England, we would love it if you could take just ten minutes to complete the survey by clicking on the following link:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/3BTB88R

Mapping the Local Voluntary Sector

CVS thanks all those groups that recently completed and return the mapping questionnaires. You may recall that there was the incentive of a brand new laptop for one lucky group. We can now reveal that the group randomly selected to receive the computer was the **ITP Support Association** (a charity that aims to promote and improve the general welfare of people with Immune Thrombocytopenia by providing support and information to patients, their families, and health professionals).

The details provided from the completed mapping forms are enabling the **CVS** to produce a state of the sector report for the area that will inform the work we do in the future.

New Voluntary Sector Cuts Website

National and regional bodies for the voluntary sector have collaborated to produce a website which aims to build a nationwide picture of how government spending cuts are impacting on voluntary organisations. It uses Google Maps to show the spread, and the front page form allows you to "share your experiences and the impact the cuts will have on the people who use your services". To access the site visit <http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk>

SNIPPETS

New Offices for Sight Concern Bedfordshire

Sight Concern Bedfordshire (SCB), the service committed to enhancing the independence and quality of life of severely sight-impaired and sight-impaired people, has now closed its Bedford Bromham Road office. Development of this site forced a move and **Sight Concern** is now based at King's House on the A6 Amptill Road, Bedford in the former Crayola building. **SCB** will continue to offer its range of services including advice, information, aids to daily living and low-vision clinics from this new venue. The move has enabled a review of **SCB's** service delivery and it is now possible to book an appointment to view daily living aids on Mondays and Wednesdays. Tuesdays and Thursdays will remain as drop-in days.

Alan Loynes, Chair of SCB, commented that "We recognise the difficulties that sight-impaired people can have in accessing services and throughout 2011 we will be committed to taking our resources, information and equipment demonstrations out into local communities across Bedfordshire and Luton".

Full details of equipment demonstration days and mobile resource sessions will be available in future **News & Views** magazines. Please ring either **01234 311555** or **01582 655554** for further details.

Census Update

The next Census will take place on 27th March 2011. Every household in England and Wales needs to complete a questionnaire so that statistics about the population can be produced. Government money for health, police, councils and other public service providers is allocated according to the population of an area, so it is vital that everyone is counted. Make sure your area gets its fair share of Government money. Questionnaires will be delivered from 7th March so look out for the purple logo, and complete and return the form as soon as you can.

You can choose whether to complete the questionnaire on-line or by hand. Every questionnaire has a unique code to enable completion at www.census.gov.uk. The questionnaire pack contains a prepaid return envelope if you prefer to post it back.

Census questionnaire completion events - If you need help, want to ask questions, or want to complete your census questionnaire on-line, please come along to one of the completion events. Check www.bedford.gov.uk and www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk for the latest information. These are the events arranged so far:

- Monday 28th March at Kempston Library 11am to 4pm
- Wednesday 30th March at Bedford Learning Centre, 88 High Street, Bedford 10am to 2pm
- Saturday 2nd April at Bedford Learning Centre 9am to 1pm
- Monday 4th April at Sandy Library 10am to 3pm
- Wednesday 6th April at Bedford Learning Centre 10am to 2pm
- Saturday 9th April at Bedford Learning Centre 9am to 1pm
- Monday 11th April at Putnoe Library 2pm to 5pm
- Wednesday 20th April at Putnoe Library 2pm to 5pm



Reviewing Your Governing Documents

Specialist charity lawyers at **Russell-Cooke** have produced a briefing on the **Equality Act 2010** and the possible need to review objects clauses in governing documents (constitutions) if they limit benefits to people with a protected characteristic (such as disability, age). The briefing note can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/45j92kl>



SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL GROUPS



Could you help to run a multi-million pound charity in Bedford?

The Bedford Charity (The Harpur Trust) has been a major contributor to Bedford life for over four-hundred years, supporting education, helping people in need and providing recreational facilities. Last year we awarded £1.9 million in grants to support wider community and educational projects across the Borough. We're led by a dedicated team of 26 unpaid volunteers, known as Trustees, who make up our governing body. Effectively they're our board of directors and are legally responsible for all of our activities.

So what does being a Trustee involve? It's not something to undertake lightly, as there is a substantial time commitment – Trustees attend at least nine formal, daytime meetings a year and will be invited to a range of additional Charity and school-related events.

So who can apply? Our employees and people aged 70+ can't be elected as Trustees, but outside these exclusions we're interested in hearing from people from all sections of the wider community, in particular anyone with skills and experience in:

- health and science
- human resources
- communications/public relations
- equality and diversity issues
- voluntary and community sector
- senior management, governance or community leadership



So how can you find out more? If you have the skills and commitment to help make a difference come and find out more at our information evening at the Charity's offices on Brickhill Drive, Bedford on Tuesday 22nd March at 6.30pm. To book your place please contact **Sandra McMullan** on **01234 369500** by 14th March. Visit www.befordcharity.org.uk for more information about the Charity.

Bedford Counselling Centre - A Safe Place to Talk

Counselling can help you make sense of what is happening to you. It is a process that involves meeting with another person to explore areas of personal difficulty. A counsellor doesn't just listen to you but can help you understand your feelings, gain a new perspective and explore ways of making changes. **Bedford Counselling Centre** offers counselling to individuals over eighteen. The Centre is committed to equal opportunities and welcomes everyone without discrimination of race, class, gender, marital status, physical ability, religion or sexual orientation. The Centre is part of the charity **Herts and Beds Counselling Foundation** and is based at Bates House, 12 Foster Hill Road, Bedford, MK40 2EN. The aim of the service is to provide a confidential, safe, accessible and reliable service to clients. There is a standard fee for an initial interview. Fees for ongoing counselling are negotiated according to means. If unsure whether counselling is the right way forward there is a Drop-In enquiry facility to help decide.

For more information ring **01234 346077** or email bedfordadmin@hbcf.co.uk

Items that Need New Homes!

CVS have a number of items that require new homes; these include a slide projector, a laptop bag, a number of four-ring folders and several hundred square cut-folders of varying colours. Should you be interested in any of these items contact **Mark Smith** on **01234 345366** or at mark@yourcvs.org

CVS operations are funded by:

Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Capacitybuilders, The Bedford Charity, EEDA and The Big Lottery Fund

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