

BEDS-SPREAD

June 2010

MP Backs ConsortiCo



Richard Fuller, MP for Bedford and Kempston, opened **ConsortiCo Limited's** first member 'Market Day' conference and backed their plans to bid for and deliver high-quality and better-value services to the public. **ConsortiCo** is a new consortium initiative, started by seven Bedfordshire charities, to work together and bid for public sector contracts; an idea that is supported in the new government's plans to enhance the role of social enterprise, charities and co-operatives in the public sector.

Speaking at the event, Richard said "We now have a new parliament, a new government and a new direction. Through **ConsortiCo**, Bedfordshire can lead this national effort to provide local services more effectively". Richard challenged the consortium members to aim high and not to wait for Commissioners to come to them but to develop more effective ways of delivering new and more effective public services that would be attractive to local government organisations and the public alike.

ConsortiCo Limited now has a membership of ten charities with a collective turnover in excess of £10m per annum. Twelve other charities are actively considering membership and two more have already applied. **Brian Roe, Chair of ConsortiCo**, said "Having Richard here today has been yet another boost for our member organisations and his words of encouragement set a very positive tone for our conference. So much so that we have already identified two new projects and formed a working group to develop them. The company is now ready for business and we will have more exciting news before the month is out."

If you are interested in winning public services contracts and would like to find out more about how **ConsortiCo**, a consortium which is owned and run by its members and is free to join, can help, please go to: www.consortico.com or call **Ian Curtis** at the **CVS** on tel: **01234 354366**.



Community & Voluntary Service

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Bedfordshire Refugee & Asylum Seekers Support (BRASS)

Could you be our next Chairperson?

BRASS is seeking a new chair to take us into its next exciting phase of development. We are a well-established and respected charity with two part-time staff, a committed team of volunteers and a loyal set of trustees.

If you are interested in this voluntary position, then please visit our website for more details or call **01234 211381** for an informal chat.

BRASS is an established charity working to empower, inform and support refugees and asylum seekers and to protect their rights with an aim to develop independence and involvement in UK society.

**27b Tavistock Street,
Bedford MK40 2RP**
Email: info@brass27b.org
Tel: **01234 211381**
Website: www.brassbedford.org.uk



BEDFORDSHIRE
REFUGEE & ASYLUM
SEEKER
SUPPORT

Your CVS serving the local Voluntary and Community Sector

Registered Charity: 1091423

QUALITY STANDARDS

Beds Garden Carers Awarded the PQASSO Quality Mark

Beds Garden Carers have been working towards achieving PQASSO since they attended the **PQASSO** Intensive Support Programme in September 2008.

The **PQASSO Quality Mark** is the externally-audited process that assesses an organisation's achievement of **PQASSO** - the award-winning quality system designed specifically for the third sector.

Charities Evaluation Services, who developed **PQASSO**, have now awarded the Quality Mark to **Beds Garden Carers** in recognition of their commitment to being a quality service provider.

Sharon Hart, Project Manager, said "Thanks to all the staff and trustees, without whom we wouldn't have achieved it. Hopefully, we'll benefit from the kudos of being the 16th in the whole country to have been awarded the Quality Mark."

Their Quality Mark assessment was funded by a grant from the **CapacityBuilders Modernisation Fund**. The **PQASSO** Intensive Support programme at **CVS** is funded by the **BIG Lottery Fund**.

For more information on **PQASSO**, please phone **Jane Owen** on **01234 354366** or email jane@yourcvs.org



*CVS Quality Standard
Services are*



LOTTERY FUNDED

VOLUNTEERING

Be a Part of 'Tea and Cakes and Volunteering'

In a new initiative from the **Volunteer Centre Bedford**, local voluntary groups in need of volunteers now have the opportunity of meeting potential volunteers face-to-face and recruiting them at one of their '**Tea and Cakes and Volunteering**' events. Many groups have already signed up to be part of these events, with the next '**Tea and Cakes and Volunteering**' events taking place between 12pm and 4pm on Thursday 24th June, Wednesday 28th July and Monday 16th August. The venue for each of these drop-ins is the **Volunteer Centre, 43 Bromham Rd, Bedford**. If your organisation would like to take part in these events contact **Rebecca Baber** on **01234 213100** or email her at Rebecca@bedfordvb.org.uk

Rebecca@bedfordvb.org.uk



News from Volunteering England

- **Sports Volunteers** - Budding sports volunteers will soon get more opportunities to roll up their sleeves and get involved in the sports they love - thanks to £93,000 of new Exchequer funding from **Sport England**. **Sport England** is investing the funding in **Volunteering England** to drive up volunteering in sport. The funding will be awarded in Volunteer Centres in every region to help them work more closely with local sports clubs and will be used to develop more opportunities for people to volunteer and match the right people to the right roles and to promote sports volunteering opportunities locally.
- **Volunteer Management** - **Volunteering England** has a new "signposting tool for people managing volunteers", helping them to find a range of resources, the **Volunteer Management Portal** at www.volunteering.org.uk/vmportal

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UPCOMING CVS TRAINING



Effective Performance Management Wednesday 7th July 2010

This workshop is for managers, other staff and trustees involved in managing the performance of their staff, both paid and voluntary, and in monitoring the performance of the overall organisation.

HR Issues for Non-Specialist Staff Thursday 15th July 2010

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.

Workshop Bookings

Cost for these workshops: £12 per delegate

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

These Training Workshops are supported by:

*The Big Lottery Fund, CapacityBuilders
and the Bedford Charity*

Coming Soon in 2010

- **Risk Assessment** - Thursday 16th September
- **Support and Supervision of Staff** - Tuesday 5th October
- **Introduction to Marketing** - Thursday 14th October
- **Good Funding Applications** - Wednesday 3rd November

OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Winning the Contract

Winning the Contract is a free online public procurement course helping small organisations bid for public sector contracts. The course is part of a series of initiatives by the **Office of Government Commerce and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills** to make procurement accessible. The course is aimed at anyone responsible for business development within their organisations and will help delegates:

- Identify the advantages and disadvantages of dealing with public bodies
- Understand how different types of contract are defined, advertised and dealt with
- Understand approved supplier lists and framework agreements
- Search for and find public sector opportunities
- Identify the key stages in the tendering process



The course takes place online and takes a maximum of four hours, to be completed at the convenience of the delegate. Once registered, delegates have six months to complete the course. More information can be found on the **Learndirect** website at <http://digbig.com/5bbrxb>

ICT

Free Software, Tools and Tips

Dez Carruthers (IT Development Adviser) has set up a series of pages on the **Voluntary Works Website** (www.voluntaryworks.org.uk) that cover the following topics:

- Free software and utilities, that include Windows and network monitoring, Password retrieval, design and media players
- Tips for using Microsoft Word 2007, Excel 2007 and Frontpage 2003
- Tutorials that include creating a bootable USB Stick



Contact Dez with your IT enquiries on 01234 354366 or at dez@yourcvcs.org

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FUNDING

The Mayor's Climate Change Fund

The Mayor's Climate Change Fund is a grant-funded scheme set up to support community group projects that will contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions within **Bedford Borough**.

Applications are welcomed from voluntary and community groups, tenants' and residents' associations, not-for-profit organisations, registered charities, public sector including schools and social enterprises, and parish councils

Groups must have a legal status, terms of reference and bank account. Private businesses, individual households and groups of houses are not eligible.

The minimum grant level is £10k and the maximum level that can be applied for is £20k. All monies must be spent within 12 months of an offer being made. Applicants will need to provide match funding of 50% of the total project cost from other sources.

Projects that will be considered should significantly contribute to the reduction of the Borough's carbon emissions such as insulation, upgrading of heating systems, solar thermal systems, solar photovoltaic systems wind turbines, ground or air source heat pumps, combined heat and power and other low-carbon and energy-efficient technologies.

The application form and guidance notes have more details of the requirements of the fund and are available to download from www.bedford.gov.uk (search for **Climate Change Fund** on the site) or from **01234 718259/718257** or at climatechangefund@bedford.gov.uk



The E.On Sustainable Energy Fund

The E.On Sustainable Energy Fund offers grants of up to £20,000 to community groups and not-for-profit organisations who wish to consider and implement sustainable energy projects in their buildings – from energy efficiency through to micro-generation. They will pay up to 50% of the project cost.

Projects that would be considered include: the purchase and installation of one or more renewable energy technologies (eg wind, solar thermal, PV, wood etc); the renovation of existing facilities to incorporate micro-generation technology (eg the reinstatement of a watermill and the purchase of a turbine to produce hydro-electricity); an energy-efficiency makeover for your building that could demonstrate significant energy savings and also behavioural change amongst users; the use of new or innovative technology to deliver either energy savings or micro-generation capacity; and a project which can demonstrate the intelligent use of waste energy (eg a district heating system that uses waste heat from one building to heat or power another).

Application forms are available from the website and the next deadline is October 8th 2010.

Website: <http://digbig.com/5bbssf>

Community Sustainable Energy Programme

The Big Lottery Fund Community Sustainable Energy Programme gives grants of up to £50,000 or 50 per cent of the project cost (whichever is lower) for installing microgeneration technologies and energy-efficiency measures.

Guidance notes and terms and conditions are on the website at <http://digbig.com/5bbssg>. You can apply online and the next deadline is Friday 30th July 2010.



LOTTERY FUNDED

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. 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** and an opportunity to participate in our 'Who wants to be a Millionaire?' funding game. The next workshops are on:

- **Wednesday 30th June 2010** - 7pm to 9pm (*New Date*)
- **Thursday 1st July 2010** - 10am to 12noon
- **Wednesday 8th September 2010** - 7pm to 9pm



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. The next workshops are on:

- **Wednesday 14th July 2010** - 10am to 12noon
- **Tuesday 12th October 2010** - 7pm to 9pm



Fit for Funding Workshops from CVS are



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

LOTTERY FUNDED

Eranda Foundation

The Eranda Foundation supports registered charities in the areas of research into medicine and education, the arts and social welfare. Applications should include a description of what the charity does and information and a cost breakdown about the proposed project.

Applications must be made in writing to **PO Box 6226, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 OXF**. Trustees usually meet in March, July and November and applications should be received two months in advance. The next deadline for applications is 31st August 2010. For more information contact the **Foundation** by telephone: **01296 689 157**, or email: eranda@btconnect.com

The People's Postcode Trust

The next round of funding from the **People's Postcode Trust** will open on 7th June 2010. Go to www.postcodetrust.org.uk before applying as the funding criteria and application process will be updated before the grants open.

In previous rounds funding was available from £500 to £10,000 for projects which deal with Poverty Prevention, Advancement of Health (not research), Community Development, Public Sports, Human Rights and Environmental Protection. Projects had to be completed within three months of receiving the grant payment and grants over £2000 were only available to registered charities.

FUNDING

Think Big - Small Funds for Local Projects by Young People

Think Big is a new funding scheme from mobile phone firm **O2**, developed in conjunction with youth charities **National Youth Agency** and **UK Youth**. It gives 13 to 25-year-olds the chance to apply for a £300 grant to fund projects aimed at addressing local issues identified by the young people themselves.

Website: www.o2thinkbig.co.uk.

The Big Lottery's Community Wildlife Fund

The **Big Lottery's Community Wildlife** will fund projects that bring local people together to discover, enjoy or protect the wildlife in their local area. The programme will fund between £300 and £10,000 for projects that:

- improve rural or urban environments for people to enjoy, for example by:
 - protecting wildlife habitats
 - creating a nature trail, woodland walk or wildlife garden for people to enjoy
 - improving natural community spaces, such as rivers, ponds and woodlands
- get people more active and healthier, for example by:
 - exploring parks, rivers and the countryside to look for rare or endangered species
 - encouraging people to take up gardening or go on nature walks
 - providing opportunities for children to learn about nature through play



The programme has three rounds and the deadline dates are 21st July 2010, 22nd September 2010 and 24th November 2010. For more details visit their website at <http://digbig.com/5bbsbb>



The Church Urban Fund

The Church Urban Fund, which supports faith-based social action in England's poorest communities, has a new website at www.cuf.org.uk. This includes an 'Act' section, covering events, funding sources and resources for projects, such as best practice guides on employment, working with volunteers and a really useful-proving community value toolkit.

Funding Central - the Free Online Funding Search Engine

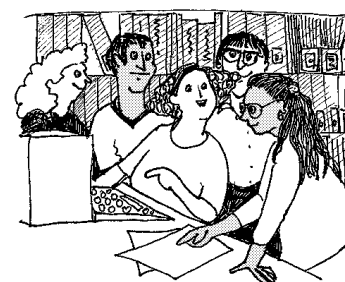
Remember to take advantage of **Funding Central**, the free online funding search engine that enables you to search through over 4000 grants, contracts and loans. Sign up and start searching **FUNDING CENTRAL** by visiting www.fundingcentral.org.uk.

The smart guide to over 4000 grants, contracts and loans

CVS Funding Resources Library

Our Resources Library can be booked by any local voluntary or community group free of charge. It is available on weekdays between 9am and 5pm. Using the Resources Library you can:

- search for funders using the subscription databases **FunderFinder** and **Trustfunding.org.uk**
- research funders in copies of the major funding directories
- access a wealth of other funding and development-related information in our books, guides and toolkits



You can book the use of our resources library by contacting **Linda Candita** on **01234 354366** or at linda@yourcvs.org

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SNIPPETS

Vetting and Barring Scheme Put on Hold

The **Vetting and Barring Scheme** for nine million people working with children and vulnerable adults in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is to be halted. **Home Secretary Theresa May** announced on 15th June 2010 that registration, due to begin in July is to be put on hold. There will be a review of the entire vetting and barring scheme, with a "scaling back" likely to follow.

HRBank

Sample Human Resources Policies and Job Descriptions

The **National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)** HRBank has a plethora of sample policies and job descriptions that can be requested online at www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/workforce-development/hrbank

NCVO's Workforce Development team has also collected a set of case studies from a variety of voluntary sector organisations on topics such as changing pension schemes, developing and implementing training programmes and improving recruitment and retention. Visit: www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/hr-case-studies

NHS Plus

Advice for Small Organisations on Employee Health

Small organisations can access professional occupational health advice from **NHS Plus** on any individual employee occupational, physical or mental health issue at no charge. The **Health for Work Advice line** is on **0800 0778844** or visit www.health4work.nhs.uk

Minimum Wage Changes

From 1st October 2010, the adult minimum wage rate starts at age 21 rather than 22 and there is a new minimum wage for apprentices. The adult rate will be £5.93 per hour, with £4.92 per hour for 18 to 20-year-olds and £3.64 per hour for 16 to 17-year-olds.

Easier Online Charity Registration

The **Charity Commission** has upgraded its online services so that supporting documents can be filed electronically when applying to register as a charity. Website: <http://digbig.com/5bbqms>

LawWorks Legal Factsheets for Voluntary Organisations

LawWorks, the volunteer lawyers' organisation (that provides free legal help to individuals and community groups who cannot afford to pay for it and who are unable to access legal aid) has written a range of legal information fact sheets, covering Employment Law, Corporate Structure and Charity Law, Intellectual Property and Data Protection. Find the downloads at <http://digbig.com/5bbscn>

Charity Commission Warns about Bogus Calls

The **Charity Commission** has been made aware of a scam involving people being telephoned by individuals claiming to represent the **Charity Commission**. In the phone calls these individuals claim to be from the "debt collection department" of the Commission and they demand payments for various services and advertisements. These calls are bogus, so please be aware.

SNIPPETS

British Red Cross

In an exciting new initiative supporting vulnerable people in Bedfordshire, the **British Red Cross** are supporting the **Ambulance Service** and **Primary Care Trusts**, by recruiting volunteers to bring individuals home from hospital and encouraging them to regain their confidence and independence back in their own home. These volunteers are, by the few hours a week they spare, making a real difference to people's lives. For more information contact **Meenha Badhan** on **07921 872415** or email her at MBadhan@redcross.org.uk



Calendar Check

Calendar Check is a new website which enables charities to put their events on a calendar to avoid clashes with other charity and fundraising events in their region. To view the site and add your events go to the **Calendar Check** website. Website: www.calendarcheck.co.uk

Let's Talk Central - Central Beds Council Engagement

Let's Talk Central website has been developed by **Central Bedfordshire Council** to find out how those who live and work there feel about their area. They want to know: What you love about where you live? What you think is special about Central Bedfordshire? What challenges we face in the area? What your hopes are for Central Bedfordshire in the future? Website: www.letstalkcentral.com

CVS Website - www.yourcvs.org

Beds-Spread is published every couple of months and in the interim we often receive notifications of the following:

- Job Vacancies
- Forthcoming Events
- Funding Opportunities
- Training Opportunities



Send us details of your vacancies, forthcoming events or training opportunities and we will post these on our website for free. It is worthwhile visiting our website on a regular basis to check on local developments as it is regularly updated. So remember to bookmark www.yourcvs.org today!

CVS Contacts



To email the people below simply prefix the individual's first name to @yourcvs.org

<i>Martin Trinder</i>	<i>Chief Officer</i>
<i>Ian Curtis</i>	<i>Collaborative Working Officer</i>
<i>Mark Smith</i>	<i>Information Officer</i>
<i>Jane Owen</i>	<i>Funding & Development Officer</i>
<i>Linda Candita</i>	<i>Funding & Development Officer</i>
<i>Jan Warnier</i>	<i>Training and Events Officer</i>
<i>Tara Charlton</i>	<i>Finance Administrator</i>
<i>Mandy Field</i>	<i>Receptionist/Office Assistant</i>
<i>Emily Herman</i>	<i>Senior Administrator</i>
<i>Dez Carruthers</i>	<i>ICT Development Adviser</i>
<i>Ricky Chambers</i>	<i>Office Trainee</i>

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**: **30th July 2010**

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

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