

BEDS-SPREAD

October 2008

Local Survey of Voluntary and Community Organisations



Over the past month a new national survey has been distributed to over 104,000 charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises across the country. The survey has been issued by the Office of the Third Sector and is the largest-ever survey of the third sector in relation to local and national funding advice and support service relationships and their relations with local statutory bodies.

However, the national survey has only been sent to registered charities and has thus not reached many groups in Bedfordshire. In view of this the **VoluntaryWorks Consortium** have decided to carry out a local survey (with considerably fewer questions) that will provide vital evidence in ensuring that local government policy will support your group's future needs. **The Government Office for the Eastern Region** has described this approach in Bedfordshire, as 'innovative' and one 'designed to test the robustness' of the Government's own survey.

Your organisation will be receiving the Bedfordshire survey in the next week or so. This will take no more than five minutes to complete and we will provide a freepost envelope for its return. There will also be an opportunity to complete the survey online. As an incentive all respondents who submit the completed survey and include their name and contact details, will be entered into a prize draw for a brand new **Toshiba Satellite Pro Laptop Computer** (complete with carrying case).

For more details on the local survey visit www.cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk (click on Consultations button) or the national survey visit www.NSTSO.com.

Compact
Week2008

1 - 8 November 2008

Making the Compact a Reality

Look out for a special Compact Week newsletter



Community & Voluntary Service

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Bedford Borough Council Grants for
Voluntary Groups 2009/2010

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LOCAL VOLUNTARY SECTOR TRAINING

Introduction to Financial Capability - Helping your Clients

Mid Beds Citizens Advice Bureau is running two **free** training sessions on Financial Capability as part of the joint **Citizens Advice Bureau/Department of Works** and Pensions project called 'Now Let's Talk Money'. The aim is to deliver training sessions to frontline workers from the voluntary and statutory sectors, so that participants' confidence and ability to engage with clients on a wide range of financial capability topics is increased.

The training sessions will take place on **Tuesday 18th November 2008** and **Thursday 4th December 2008** at the offices of **Mid Beds District Council, Priory House, Monks Way, Chicksands** from 10am until 12pm.

This is a must for voluntary groups which provide advice on financial matters and following the course participants will be able to:

- Be aware of attitudes and assumptions about clients and finance that might affect how clients are helped
- List some common banking problems and identify strategies for dealing with them
- State the advantages of saving in relation to the client group and know the range of saving choices
- Identify the pros and cons of different types of credit
- Distinguish between priority and non-priority debts
- Identify strategies and skills to engage clients

To book a place and to find out more, contact **Jenny Hedges on 01462 819570** or email manager@ampthill.cabnet.org.uk.



Bedfordshire Advice Forum Training

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

Tuesday 4th November 2008 - Full-day course - 10.00am - 4.00pm

This one-day course is aimed at advisers and support workers who need an overview of the new benefit, which will be introduced on 27th October, for people who are incapable of work.

Course content includes an overview of ESA, conditions of entitlement, the Work Capability Assessment, the effects on means-tested benefits, and the future position for existing claimants of Incapacity Benefit and Income Support.

Benefits for Older People

Friday 12th December 2008 - Full-day course - 10.00am – 4.00pm

Millions of pounds of benefits go unclaimed by older people each year. This one-day course is aimed at advisers and support workers who advise people over 60.

Course content includes an overview of benefits for older people, retirement pensions, Attendance Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit and details of other benefits.

The courses will be held at **Bunyan Meeting Free Church, Mill Street, Bedford**. For details of how to book your place and on the cost of attending these workshops either visit www.bedsadviceforum.org.uk or contact **Infotrain Services Ltd** on **01234 360607** for more details and a booking form.

CVS TRAINING

Minute Taking Skills

Tuesday 4th November 2008

Venue: CVS Mid & North Beds, 43 Bromham Road, Bedford

Taking and writing minutes of meetings is an important skill. It is essential to have an accurate record of discussion and decisions made if organisations are to function effectively. This workshop will allow people to develop their understanding of what's involved and their skills in producing good minutes.

Making a Good Funding Application

Tuesday 18th November 2008

Venue: Rufus Centre, Flitwick

If you are new to writing funding applications this is a great course about the skills required, what funders are really looking for, and the ability to avoid common pitfalls.

Help! I'm a charity trustee!

Saturday 15th November 2008 - 10.00am to 12.30pm

Venue: The Rufus Centre, Flitwick

Being a trustee of a charity – a member of its management committee or board – can be both rewarding and challenging. But trustees also have the responsibility of running the organisation properly, managing its finances, employing staff and ensuring the wellbeing of volunteers and users. Trustees must ensure that the charity is accountable to its users, its funders and donors, the public, the Charity Commission, and Companies House if it is a charitable company. But don't panic! Help is at hand with a free half-day event designed to help trustees.

Full Cost Recovery

Thursday 6th November 2008

Venue: CVS Mid & North Beds, 43 Bromham Road, Bedford

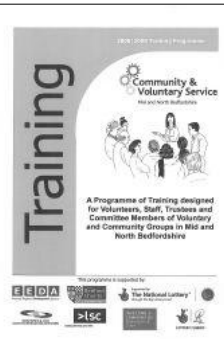
Does all your funding cover the 'core' or 'central' costs of your organisation? How much should each activity be contributing towards those costs? What proportion of your 'core' costs should you be adding to your funding applications? Full Cost Recovery is the answer!

An Introduction to Charities and VAT

Tuesday 25th November 2008

Venue: CVS Mid & North Beds, 43 Bromham Road, Bedford

There is a certain amount of charity sector folklore about what is and is not permitted. So we have arranged for the Association of Charity Independent Examiners to run a half-day on all aspects of VAT relating to charities. The cost for this workshop will be £20 per delegate.



CVS Mid and North Beds Training Programme 2008/2009

For details about our training courses or to book a place ring **Jan Warnier** on **01234 354366** or email: jan@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk
For full details of our training programme for 2008/2009 visit: <http://digbig.com/4xknf>

TENDERING

CVS Launches New Tendering Advice Service

Following government developments to encourage third sector organisations to tender for public services, the **CVS** is pleased to announce the launch of its new '**Tendering Advice Service**'.

Martin Trinder, Chief Officer at the **CVS** said, "We are now entering a new era of public funding for our sector. We have seen a steady shift from grants to contracts and in the coming weeks and months we will see a further move to increased open and competitive tendering, often for services we have traditionally delivered through grant support. There will be losers and winners and our advice service is one way we are helping to support the sector in Mid and North Beds to 'get tender ready' and survive".

If you want to know more about this subject the **CVS** also runs a series of training workshops on this and closely related topics to help prepare trustees and staff for these major changes. There is already a section on the **CVS** website www.cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk and this will now be further developed so that there is easy access to help and information at the click of a mouse. Anybody wanting help can also contact **Ian Curtis, Collaborative Working Officer and Procurement Lead** on **01234 354366**.



CENTRAL BEDS NEWS



What is Central Bedfordshire?



In April 2009 **Central Bedfordshire Council** will begin providing public services as an all-purpose unitary authority. It will deliver all the existing services of both **Mid and South Bedfordshire District Councils** as well as those currently run by **Bedfordshire County Council** in these areas.

Voluntary Sector Funding Commitment



Central
Bedfordshire

The new emerging **Central Bedfordshire Unitary Authority** and voluntary and community organisations within that area enjoy good working relationships and share many aspirations: dedication to public life, support for the development of strong and healthy communities, and the pursuit of inclusiveness. The community and voluntary sector in Bedfordshire delivers high-quality services across all of our communities, and in doing so helps authorities to deliver their strategic objectives.

Central Bedfordshire has now agreed to adopt the **Bedfordshire and Luton Compact**, a framework for working with the third sector. The

Compact builds on the strong relationships already established and seeks to develop genuine partnerships that deliver the priorities of **Central Bedfordshire**. They are encouraging all staff who work with the third sector to familiarise themselves with what the Compact means for Central Bedfordshire service delivery. You can find out more about the compact at www.bedsandlutoncompact.org.uk.

In order to provide stability and security within the third sector, **Central Bedfordshire** will honour all existing contractual arrangements that are in place, across all three authorities, if they continue into next year, providing these services are delivered in the area of **Central Bedfordshire**.

Where a third sector contract is coming up for renewal before April 2009, subject to satisfactory performance, **Central Bedfordshire** will roll forward existing arrangements until a fundamental review of all third sector funding is undertaken during 2009. The relevant managers will ensure that third sector contracts are included in their budget estimates for 2009/10. The Head of Service for Policy, Performance and Partnerships will facilitate a fundamental review of third sector funding in the first year of Central Bedfordshire. For more information contact **Martin Trinder** at martin@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk or by **01234 354366**.

Could your organisation represent the local voluntary sector on Central Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership?

Following consultation on the proposed partnership arrangements for **Central Bedfordshire**, frontline voluntary and community sector organisations are to be represented on the **Central Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)**. This important role will require the representative to be involved in strategic issues and developments affecting the sector. Full details of the role and the selection process can be found at <http://digbig.com/4xrea>. Anyone with an interest in fulfilling this role should contact partnerships@action-southbeds.org.uk. The deadline for initial expressions of interest is the **31st October 2008**.

Informal interviews will be held on **Thursday 6th November 2008** for short-listed applicants and the chosen representative will be expected to attend the first meeting of the **Central Bedfordshire Shadow LSP Board** on the **11th November 2008 (11.30am – 2.00pm)**. If you would like to discuss the role with someone informally, please do not hesitate to contact **Martin Trinder (Chief Officer of CVS)** on **01234 354366**.

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**.

- **Saturday 1st November (10am - 12pm)**
- **Monday 1st December (7pm - 9pm)**
- **Saturday 31st January (10am - 12pm)**



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

Grant Funding from Bedford Borough Council for 2009/10 for Voluntary, Community and Charitable organisations

Applications for funding for 2009/10 are invited from voluntary, community and charitable organisations, including sports and arts groups. Application forms and guidance notes will be available in due course on the Council's website at www.bedford.gov.uk or can be requested by telephone from the **Community Welfare Team** on **01234 227351**.

Application packs can also be requested by email at ksmith@bedford.gov.uk or rdenton@bedford.gov.uk or by post from: **The Community Welfare Team, Room B210, Bedford Borough Council, Town Hall, St. Paul's Square, Bedford, MK40 1SJ**.

The deadline for receipt of completed application forms and the necessary enclosures is close of business on **Friday 21st November 2008**.

Applicants should note that the amount available for grant funding for 2009/10 is subject to the Council's budget-setting process.



Three-Year Funding to be the Norm for our Sector!

An announcement made on 6th October by the **Cabinet Office of The Third Sector** in conjunction with the **Treasury** confirmed that government departments are to make three-year funding the norm for charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises "in all but exceptional cases". This message has been repeated in many government publications recently and is also a principle contained in the **National Compact Code for Funding and Procurement**. However the government is now getting tough with their own departments as each of them now has to report progress on this issue to the Cabinet Minister for the Third Sector by the end of October and annually thereafter. The annual report will then be sent to the Treasury and to Parliament as part of the annual review of the Compact. Indeed, in Bedfordshire and Luton the recently re-published **Beds and Luton Local Compact Funding and Development Code** contains the principle that the statutory sector should 'implement three-year funding arrangements as a norm, where appropriate'. For a downloadable copy of this cornerstone document go to www.bedsandlutoncompact.org.uk or call **01234 354366**. For further information about procurement and open tendering, contact **Ian Curtis** on **01234 354366**.

FUNDING

ACRE launches £500,000 grants fund for communities affected by quarrying

National rural community development charity **Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)**, and members of the **Rural Community Action Network (RCAN)** have announced the launch of this year's **COMMA Fund** to support projects in communities affected by quarrying. Communities can apply through their local **RCAN** member for grants of between **£3,000 and £20,000** to support community projects and amenities. **ACRE** and **RCAN** are delivering the grants on behalf of **Defra**, funded by the aggregates levy on quarries.

Sylvia Brown, Chief Executive of ACRE, said: "Last year we were able to support a wide range of communities to improve their local facilities, including upgrading the energy efficiency of a village hall, building children's play equipment, and developing various environmental projects. Almost any community activities can be supported. If you live within 10 km of a quarry it's likely that you will qualify. This is a fantastic opportunity to get the support you need to make a difference in your community".

For more details about this fund contact **Sue Norman** at **Beds Rural Communities Charity** on **01234 838771 ext 104** or email suen@bedsrcc.org.uk.

Cut your Carbon - Second Funding Round

The **East of England Development Agency (EEDA)** kicked off round two of its **£2.5 million Cut your Carbon funding competition**. **Cut your Carbon** is a three-year campaign and competition, that aims to bring together communities in the East of England to tackle climate change. Through the funding competition communities are able to win up to **£200,000** funding for projects that apply fresh thinking to cutting carbon emissions. Anyone interested in finding out more should visit the campaign website, www.cutyourcarbon.org.uk where community groups can contact a community support officer to get help. Project proposal deadline: 30th January 2009.

CUT YOUR CARBON in partnership with
anglianwater e-on

Grassroots Grants for Small Community Groups

The scheme offers financial support to small voluntary and community groups and organisations throughout the area, enabling them to continue or expand their work. Any small, volunteer-led community group that is connected to the needs of the local community can apply for a grant, subject to some terms and conditions, including an **average turnover of under £20,000 per annum** (see our website for more details). Grants range from **£250 to £5,000**. **£5,000** is the maximum that any one group may receive during the lifetime of the scheme (i.e. until March 31st 2011).

Contact: **Mark West, Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation, The Smithy, The Village, Old Warden, Beds, SG18 9HQ** (please note this new address of the Foundation). Tel: **01767 626459**. E-mail: administrator@blcf.org.uk. Web site: www.blcf.org.uk/grants.

New Gift Aid Declaration Forms

The model **Gift Aid** declaration forms for charities and community amateur sports clubs have been updated to reflect the change in the basic rate of tax from 6th April 2008.

The new forms can be downloaded from www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/forms.htm.

SNIPPETS

Bangladeshi Community Council (Bedford) Launch Event

Sunday 2nd November 2008 - 1pm to 5pm - Civic Theatre, Horne Lane, Bedford

Come along and celebrate the launch of the new Bangladeshi Community Council for Bedford, where there will be nominations for committee roles, an opportunity for discussion, a range of children's activities, information stalls, refreshments and a raffle.

Joining together to fight Poverty

Get Fair, a national campaign calling for an end to poverty in the UK by 2020, has been created as a coalition of organisations. More than fifty children and older people's organisations, refugee and disabled groups, housing groups, faith and community groups have already joined. More details at www.getfair.org.uk.

How 'green' is your workplace? Answer a quick on-line survey and win fantastic green prizes!

This survey from **Every Action Counts** is a follow-up exercise to the national green survey undertaken by 442 voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations in early 2007. It is hoped that this will give a further picture of how the third sector is shaping up in addressing its own 'green' agendas. All respondents to this survey will be included in a prize draw for a range of really fantastic green prizes. It is hoped that there will be an even better response this time around, as the more respondents, the better picture that will emerge. The survey can be found at www.groundwork-surveys.org.uk/eacgreenquestionnaire. The deadline for completed questionnaires is Friday 28th November (all prize winners will be notified by 2nd December).

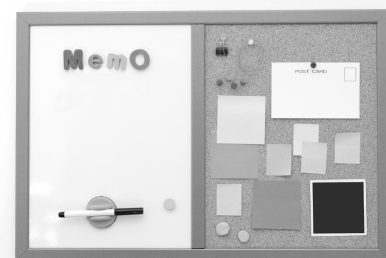
BigglesFM need guests!

BigglesFM will again be broadcasting from 27th November to 24th December and are looking for voluntary and community groups, with an interesting story to tell, to appear on their station. The station broadcasts on **87.9FM** around **Biggleswade, Sandy and Potton** and over the internet via www.bigglesfm.co.uk. If your organisation would like to appear, contact **Philip Dean** at philipdean2001@btinternet.com or by calling **07850 086202**.

Mid and North Beds Notice Board

Any groups working to develop and promote local voluntary and community activity in Mid or North Bedfordshire, can post notices on the **Notice Board Page** of the **CVS** website. This may include your organisations job vacancies, items for sale, details of your upcoming events, room hire and training. Please email details to mark@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk.

At present we are highlighting the upcoming **Charities in Bedford Association** Quiz Night, together with meeting room hire from **Project 229, Bedford Creative Arts, Bedford Foyer, the MS Therapy Centre** and **Nooria Mission**. It's well worth bookmarking this page to keep up-to-date with local events, vacancies and offers and also to post your own group's details for **FREE** when you have something to publicise. Just give us a call on **01234 354366**.



SNIPPETS

Launch of Countywide Child Poverty Network

Friday 7th November 2008 - 10.00 am - 1.00 pm - The Rufus Centre, Flitwick

A commitment to tackle child poverty is now part of Bedfordshire's new Local Area Agreement. To help oversee this, a child poverty network will be formed consisting of key partners in the county. This event will act as the official launch of the new network and will also provide an opportunity to discuss the role of the network and to consult with partners on developing a strategy and action plan to tackle child poverty in Bedfordshire.



Who should attend? Everybody who is interested in tackling child poverty in Bedfordshire: Countywide Partnership members, senior managers in the statutory and voluntary sectors, and frontline staff working with children and families in poverty. This event is free of charge but places are limited.

How to book: Register online at www.tacklingpoverty-beds.org.uk. Email booking form to jen.simkins@infotrain.co.uk. Telephone **01234 360607**

Sloppy Slipper Swap - preventing falls amongst old people

Funded by **NHS Bedfordshire**, seven good neighbour and village care scheme groups are participating in shoe specialist **Natureform's National Sloppy Slipper** initiative to raise awareness about falls prevention and the dangers of old floppy slippers. This means older residents in **Clophill, Cotton End, Cranfield, Flitwick, Lidlington, Renhold, Ridgmont** have the opportunity to swap their old slippers for a free new safer pair.

Contact **Justine Hunt, Beds Rural Communities Charity's Co-ordinator** for the Beds **Good Neighbour & Village Care Scheme Network**, for more information on the free offer, falls prevention and **Natureform slippers** on tel: **01234 832648** or email justineh@bedsrcc.org.uk

Wooden Chairs Available

Up to 70 wooden chairs are available for **FREE** from **St. Mary's Church, Goldington, Bedford**. Contact **Jane Preston** on **01234 306361**. You will be responsible for collecting the chairs from the church.

Beds-Spread is the Newsletter of **Community & Voluntary Service Mid & North Bedfordshire, 43 Bromham Road, Bedford, MK40 2AA**. Tel: **01234 354366**. Email: info@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk. Website: www.cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk. 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 (Beds County Council, Mid Beds District Council & Bedford Borough Council) and to local libraries. **Beds-Spread** is also available to download from our website at www.cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk, where previous copies can also be accessed.

Please note:

- Every care is taken to provide accurate information, however **CVS Mid & North Beds** 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 Mid & North Beds**.
- Please feel free to replicate any articles, as long as you credit **CVS Mid & North Beds**.

Contributions are welcomed. Deadline for copy for inclusion in the next issue of **Beds-Spread: 24th November 2008**

Send copy to **Mark Smith** at mark@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk

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