



# BEDS-SPREAD



December 2007

## Lottery Cash Supports Quality Work

**Community and Voluntary Service Mid and North Bedfordshire (CVS Mid and North Beds)**, on behalf of the local voluntary sector, has hit the lottery jackpot by securing a grant of **over £270,000!**

CVS Mid and North Beds has been awarded funding from the **Big Lottery Fund** to support local voluntary and community organisations across Mid and North Bedfordshire.

The grant will pay for a full-time **Funding and Development Officer** to help organisations work more effectively and gain a **Quality Standard** (such as **PQASSO - Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations**) that will help them to raise more cash. The funding will also be used to provide training opportunities for staff and volunteers.

The grant has been welcomed by the **CVS Chair, Pat Olney**, who said, "We are delighted to receive this funding, which will enable us over the next five years to help local organisations with issues such as business planning and marketing, and offer them support to work towards an appropriate Quality Standard. There are over 2000 voluntary organisations and community groups working in the local area, many of whom are totally reliant on local people volunteering their time. This project will help many of them to keep on providing essential services to the local community."

### What is PQASSO?:

- **PQASSO** is the **Charities Evaluations Services'** practical quality assurance system for small organisations, or for projects within larger organisations. It's a straightforward quality system, written in plain English and designed specifically for voluntary sector organisations.
- **PQASSO** provides a flexible, step-by-step approach to working out what your organisation is doing well and what could be improved. By using the self-assessment work pack, the system helps you to set priorities for your organisation's future and improve your organisation's performance.
- **PQASSO** is the most widely-used quality assurance system within the voluntary sector, adopted by thousands of organisations wishing to become more efficient and effective.



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Big Lottery Fund



## Community & Voluntary Service

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*From us all at CVS Mid and North Beds*

## Contacts

*To email the people below simply prefix the individual's first name to [@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk](mailto:@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk)*

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<i>Ian Curtis</i>	<i>Collaborative Working Officer</i>
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<i>Gianna Cave</i>	<i>PA to Chief Officer</i>

Serving the Voluntary and Community Sector in Mid and North Bedfordshire

Registered Charity: 1091423

# CONSULTATION

## Bedfordshire & Luton Funding and Procurement Code of Good Practice Consultation

The **Bedfordshire and Luton Compact Development Group** is consulting on a new **Funding and Procurement Code of Good Practice**:

- The draft code aims to clarify the funding relationship between statutory and voluntary and community sector partners operating within Bedfordshire and Luton
- Voluntary organisations working with any statutory organisation should respond to this consultation. All statutory organisations should respond to this consultation
- The code will replace the existing Funding Code of Practice, and better reflect the changing nature of the funding relationship between the voluntary sector and the statutory sector
- The draft code explains the benefits of having such a code, and sets out some clear principles that both voluntary and statutory partners should follow throughout a funding relationship

Please:

- **Download: The Draft Funding & Procurement Code of Good Practice** at [www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/cvsmidandnorthbeds/Consultations.asp](http://www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/cvsmidandnorthbeds/Consultations.asp)
- **Comment:** Complete the Online Questionnaire at [www.bedsandlutoncompact.org.uk](http://www.bedsandlutoncompact.org.uk)

The consultation is open until **25th February 2008**.

# FUNDING

## Fit for Funding Workshops

The **CVS Mid and North Beds** is running a further series of **FREE** funding workshops between now and March 2008 to help meet the demand from groups for funding and development advice and guidance.

The workshops will cover such areas as fundraising, policies, budgeting, 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 **GRANTfinder**.

We hope that this will also be a way of bringing groups together to help each other and to share information.

The workshops will take place at our offices at 43 Bromham Road, Bedford on:

- **Saturday 12th January 2008 - 10am to 12pm**
- **Friday 1st February 2008 - 1pm to 3pm**
- **Saturday 1st March 2008 - 10am to 12pm**

If you would like to attend one of the workshops or receive further information, please contact either **Maxine Hayes** or **Jane Owen** on **01234 354366** or email [maxine@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk](mailto:maxine@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk) or [jane@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk](mailto:jane@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk)



**Fundraising Toolkit**  
Download your copy from:  
[www.cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk](http://www.cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk)



# TRAINING

## Promoting Equal Opportunities and Diversity

**Tuesday 15th January 2008 - 9.45am to 4.30pm**

The course is for:

- Anybody who works or volunteers in the voluntary and community sector, who wants to know more about the practical aspects of equal opportunities in organisations

## Empowering the Voluntary Sector

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008 - 9.00am to 4.30pm**

- The aim of the workshop is to equip voluntary and community sector organisations with the skills to negotiate effectively with public bodies on such issues as funding cuts, policy change consultation and local authority decisions concerning the provision of services.

Cost: **£35 per delegate** (including lunch). To book your place please go to [www.navca.org.uk/evs](http://www.navca.org.uk/evs) and download a booking form.

## Effective Management Committees

**Wednesday 23rd January 2008 - 9.45am to 4.30pm**

The course is for:

- Trustees (who may be called Managers, committee members, directors, executives) - new or established
- Those who work directly with and support Boards (usually CEO/Senior Management)

## Cost and Bookings for these Workshops

**£10 per delegate** (unless otherwise stated)  
For further details please contact **Jan** at **CVS** on **01234 354366** or email: [jan@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk](mailto:jan@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk)

*All workshops: at CVS Mid & North Beds Offices*

# ONLINE RESOURCES

## The Community Website Builder

Voluntary organisations, clubs and societies can create their own websites through [www.thelocalchannel.co.uk](http://www.thelocalchannel.co.uk). They are free, easy to build - and **The Local Channel** provides a very friendly free-phone help-line should you need it. Web pages can really help a local organisation. They can: keep supporters/members up-to-date; promote upcoming events; help with recruiting volunteers; give directions; and cut down on mailing costs, to name but a few advantages.

## Better Communications

**CharityComms** is a new organisation founded to support and develop the voluntary sector's use and understanding of communications. [www.charitycomms.org.uk](http://www.charitycomms.org.uk)

## Workers Rights in Polish

The **TUC** has launched a new Polish-language website to support the increasing number of Polish workers in the UK. This may be useful to groups operating in Bedford. It explains the rights employees can expect at work, including health and safety, working time, holiday entitlement and sick pay. [www.pracawbrytanii.org](http://www.pracawbrytanii.org)

## Volunteer Genie

**VolunteerGenie** helps charities use the media to recruit more volunteers. It explains what motivates people to volunteer and the media campaigns that catch people's attention (including new media). It has free guides to help you devise your own media strategy with tips on working with journalists. [www.volunteergenie.org.uk](http://www.volunteergenie.org.uk)

## SNIPPETS

### Preen Furniture Bank - Your New Community Re-Use Service

**Preen Furniture Bank Community Interest Company** is a new Social Enterprise that works to improve the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people in Mid Bedfordshire. It provides low and no-cost essential nearly-new and used furniture to low-income households, vulnerable people, students and those over sixty-five. Furniture can be donated to the scheme. For more information or to book a free collection, call **01767 600332**. **Preen Furniture Bank** is located next to 'Hire or Buy' on **Sun Street, Biggleswade** and is open **Monday to Saturday between 9.30am and 12.30pm**.

### The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre - New Room to Hire

**The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre**, based at **55 Barkers Lane, Bedford, MK41 9RX**, has a new Conference Room (that seats up to 30 people) available at £15 per hour. Refreshments can be made available upon request and there is parking nearby. To find out more or to make a booking, call **Val** or **Jenny** on **01234 325781**.

### Child Development Centre, Kempston

Are you a Child-Related Disability Voluntary Organisation? Do you have an Outreach Service? Can your organisation also provide support and advice for parents of children with disabilities? If so, then we at the **Child Development Centre, Kempston** would like to hear from you!

We have a Parent Information Room with a library, resources and free public internet access for parents and professionals. Currently, **Autism Beds, Bedford Cerebral Palsy Society & Face 2 Face** are here each week. If you feel that you can also help, please contact either **John Thomson** or **Pat Taylor** on Thursdays on **01234 310278**.

### Digital Recording Studios Available for Hire

**K-2 Studios** are a modern digital recording studio producing broadcast quality recordings. The studios are now available for hire at subsidised rates. This may be of interest to local youth groups. To book or to find out more please contact **Karl Morey**, at **K-2 Studios, 30 The Broadway, Bedford MK40 2TH**. Email **karl@crossflowrecordings.co.uk**. Telephone **07886 804417**.

**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:

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- 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**: **14th January 2008**

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



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**Bedfordshire County Council, Bedford Borough Council, Mid Bedfordshire District Council, ChangeUp, The Learning & Skills Council, The Learning Partnership and The Bedford Charity**

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