

BEDS-SPREAD

April 2007

FUNDING FAYRE 2007



Bedfordshire & Luton
Funding Network

**Thursday 14th June 2007
12.30pm - 5pm**

Bedford Corn Exchange

***Book your place now to avoid
disappointment!***

Workshops:

**Bedford Charity, Big Lottery, Awards for All,
Landfill Community Fund, Children in Need,
FutureBuilders, ESF/Euro Funding,
Procurement, Focus on Outcomes,
Social Enterprise, Promoting Your Organisation,
Making a Good Application**

+ Funders Marketplace to Browse

If you have not received a booking form contact us on
01234 354366

Or email: **fundingfayre@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk** or
download one from:

**[www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/cvsmidandnorthbeds/
FundingFayre.asp](http://www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/cvsmidandnorthbeds/FundingFayre.asp)**

Changes at CVS - Mid & North Beds

You will note from the adjoining list of contacts that in the last month there have been a number of changes, which include the arrival of Jane Owen as our new Funding & Development Officer. We welcome Jane to the team. In addition you will note that Maxine Hayes now becomes a Funding & Development Officer and Mark Smith becomes the Information Officer.

Please contact the team to assist you!



Community & Voluntary Service

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Contacts

<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>Maxine Hayes</i>	<i>Funding & Development Officer</i>
<i>Jane Owen</i>	<i>Funding & Development Officer</i>
<i>Jan Warnier</i>	<i>Training and Events Officer</i>
<i>Mary Jurance</i>	<i>Family Network Officer</i>
<i>Tara Charlton</i>	<i>Finance Administrator</i>
<i>Fiona Gaunt</i>	<i>Office Assistant</i>

*To email the above simply prefix individual's first
name to @cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk*

Serving the Voluntary and Community Sector in Mid and North Bedfordshire

Registered Charity: 1091423

CONSULTATIONS

Countywide Community Strategy Refresh

Voluntary Sector Consultation Event

The **Community Strategy for Bedfordshire** sets out a collective local vision for Bedfordshire that is shared by all major partners in the county. Over the next few months, the **Community Strategy for Bedfordshire** is being refreshed.

The refreshed document should:

- Set a collective local vision for Bedfordshire that all agencies can share
- Make explicit our common priorities for tackling local quality of life issues (which whilst having regard to national government's priorities for public services, must be soundly rooted in a clear analysis of local needs)
- Inform the Local Area Agreement

The voluntary sector plays a key role in improving the quality of life for all the people of Bedfordshire and so it is crucial that the views of the sector are taken into account in the refreshing process.

A half-day consultation event for the voluntary and community sector will be held on **Tuesday 1st May 2007** at the **Rufus Centre, Flitwick** from **9.30am to 1pm**, including a networking lunch.

This event will give participants an opportunity to comment on the main priorities for the Community Strategy, but also how the priorities can be delivered.

If you would like to attend this event, please contact **Jan** at **CVS Mid and North Beds** on **01234 354366**, or email: **jan@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk**

The Commission on the Future of Volunteering

The **Commission on the Future of Volunteering** is an independent body established by the **England Volunteering Development Council** to develop a long-term vision for volunteering in England as a legacy of the Year of the Volunteer 2005.

Call for evidence:

- Are government initiatives in the sector helping or hindering?
- Should we expect people from all cultures and backgrounds to volunteer?
- Does volunteering mean the same to everyone?

We want to hear from you!

Between now and the end of June we are consulting widely in order to find out what you think.

We are asking for evidence in three main areas:

- The relationship between volunteering and government
- Volunteering is for all
- Developing a culture of volunteering

You can find out how you can be a part of this important consultation by visiting **www.volcomm.org.uk/getinvolved/**

Alastair Burt, MP for North East Bedfordshire, is involved in this consultation, as one of the members of the **Volunteering is for All** Working Group

What Matters Most To You in Mid Bedfordshire

The **Mid Bedfordshire Community Plan** was launched back in December 2003. The Plan addresses local community concerns and issues, which led to a set of actions to improve the quality of life for residents. The Plan was developed and produced based on feedback and input provided by the District Council, Police, Primary Care Trust, individuals and organisations representing the Community and Voluntary Sector and private business, who together are the **Mid Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership**. Steered by the District Council, the content of the Plan was also guided by the responses received by our community members and what they told us mattered most to them.

Four years on, many things have been put in place and/or changed, so the time is now right for us to look at the Community Plan again to update, refresh and refocus the general content, to ensure it reflects current thoughts and priorities. In doing so, we can prepare ourselves for the future, enabling us to respond to the challenges of population change, housing demand, health issues, education and training, jobs and our leisure time.

From 19th March until 21st May 2007, a survey is being undertaken that provides you with an opportunity to comment and inform Mid Beds District Council on your priorities and What Matters Most to You! You can access the online questionnaire from: **www.midbeds.gov.uk/council/corporate/lsp/consultation/default.asp**

Serving the Voluntary and Community Sector in Mid and North Bedfordshire

FUNDING

**INVESTING in
COMMUNITIES**
Bedfordshire &
Luton

Investing in Communities Adult Skills Interventions 2007-2008

If you are working in the field of Adult Skills, then you may be interested in the programme document for the above initiative.

The Guidance Notes provide information on the detailed themes and actions that the **Adult Skills Partnership** is looking to deliver.

Organisations are invited to complete the required form by 10th May. There is a special emphasis on partnership working and it is expected that more than one partner will be involved in the delivery of each action and so task groups will be established for each action to develop work plans etc.

It is hoped that delivery will commence from July.

If you would like a copy of the Programme Information document and the Matrix which needs to be completed and returned, you can call **Mark** at **CVS** on 01234 354366 who can send you a copy, or download a copy from the CVS website at:

[www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/
cvsmidandnorthbeds/IiC.asp](http://www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/cvsmidandnorthbeds/IiC.asp)

Community Lunch



*Launch of The Bedford Charity's
Themed Grant Programme*

HOMELESSNESS

Place: The Harpur Room, CVS Mid & North Beds,
43 Bromham Road, Bedford, MK40 2AA

Date: Friday 8th June 2007

Time: 12pm - 2.30pm (light buffet lunch included)

The Bedford Charity is significantly increasing its grant-making over the next few years with a series of themed grants programmes.

Chief Executive **David Russell** and Grants Manager **Lucy Bardner** will launch the third of their themed programmes, Homelessness.

There will also be a presentation from **Thames Reach**, a London-based agency helping homeless and vulnerable people. Applicants to this themed programme will be expected to work towards clearly identified outcomes. **Thames Reach** will therefore be sharing their considerable experience of developing successful outcomes-based approaches to supporting homeless people.

Please reserve a place by contacting **Jan** at **CVS** on **01234 354366** or email:
jan@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk

LankellyChase Foundation Children's Summer Playschemes Small Grants 2007

Each year the Trustees of the **LankellyChase Foundation** set aside funds for summer playschemes for children between the ages of 5 – 13 yrs. Preference is given to small local playschemes lasting 4 - 6 weeks, and groups planning special activities for youngsters who are disadvantaged or who have a disability. This includes summer activities for children in refuges.

Grants: between £200 - £500

Grants for: Summer Playschemes for children aged 5-13 years; Small local schemes lasting for 2-6 weeks; Schemes catering for youngsters who are disadvantaged or who have a disability; Schemes with strong volunteer support. **They do not support:** Summer camps; Club or family holidays; Replacing equipment.

For further details contact **LankellyChase Foundation**, 1 The Court, High Street, Harwell, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0EY (note change of address) Tel & Fax: **01235 820044** Website: www.lankellychase.org.uk

Deadline: Friday 11th May 2007

FUNDING

People's Millions for 2007!

People's Millions 'on-air' contest opens for bids on 13th March with even bigger prizes. Previously groups have been able to apply for up to £50,000 for their project - this year grants of up to £80,000 are up for grabs! This year, the **People's Millions** will be bigger and better with even more awards across the ITV regions to community-based projects.

Organisations will be able to apply for grants for local projects across the UK that will help communities to transform, use or enjoy local environments. The programme will be open to voluntary and community groups, local authorities, schools and health organisations.

Groups who are short-listed will go forward to feature on local ITV news programmes towards the end of November 2007, when the public will vote for the project they want to win the money.

In the last two years we have had lots of entries to this exciting competition. Most of the entries have come from groups who have never applied to us before. ITV viewers have voted for projects including community gardens, children's play areas and an indoor bowls club. But hurry as the deadline for getting applications in is 17th May!

Application packs are available from **0845 0 10 11 12** or via the **www.biglotteryfund.org.uk**

Grants for Planning Trees (UK)

The Tree Council, a national charity that promotes planting trees and conservation of trees in town and countryside has two grant schemes available in 2007. These are the **Trees for Schools Fund** and **Community Tree Fund**. Under these funds grants of up to £700.00 are available both to schools and community groups proposing to undertake well-planned tree-planting projects starting in 2007 during National Tree Week (21st November – 2nd December). Closing date for both funding streams is 31st May 2007. More info available from **www.treecouncil.org.uk** The Tree Council, 71 Newcomen Street, London. SE1 1YT **Tel: 020 7407 9992** Email: **Info@treecouncil.org.uk**

Bedfordshire Police Authority Youth Projects Fund

The fund which was established in 2002 to help projects working with young people aimed at keeping them safe and out of trouble. Funding is only awarded to projects aimed at engaging young people and reducing the risk of them becoming involved in crime. The next round of grants **will be allocated in May 2007**. For further information contact **Bedfordshire Police Authority** on **01234 842066** or e mail **info@bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk**

Comic Relief Large Grants

Does your organisation work with people from black and minority ethnic communities?
Is your organisation tackling issues that are important to refugees and asylum seekers?
*If YES then **Comic Relief** wants to hear from you.*

Comic Relief offers large grants to voluntary organisations of any size across the whole of the UK. Applications for grants of between £15,000 and £40,000 per year and usually for between one and three years can be considered. There are currently five large grant programme areas covering:

- Young People
- Older People
- Mental Health
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Domestic Violence

Within *each* of these main programme areas we will consider applications for work and projects that support and meet the needs of our specific target groups including refugees and asylum seekers.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS – 8th JUNE 2007

Please check out the grants section of the website at: **www.comicrelief.com** to find out more about each of these programmes and their criteria. Alternatively you can: Call **020 7820 5555** and ask for the UK Grants team or email **ukgrants@comicrelief.org.uk** and ask for an application pack to be sent to you.

TRAINING

CVS Training

- Tuesday 8th May 2007*
Allocating and Monitoring Progress and Quality
 How to ensure that the work required is effectively planned and fairly allocated to individuals/teams and monitor the progress and quality of the work to ensure the right level of performance.
- Wednesday 6th June 2007*
Health and Safety at Work
 How to manage the overall health and safety process, going beyond meeting legislation and including it in the planning and decision-making processes.
- Wednesday 4th July 2007*
Managing a Budget
 Learn how to prepare, submit and agree a budget for a set operating period, involving monitoring actual performance against agreed budget and taking necessary action in case of variances.
- Tuesday 17th July 2007*
Promoting Equal Opportunities and Diversity
 Learn how to promote equality of opportunity and diversity beyond compliance with legislation, working towards awareness of, and active commitment to, ensuring equal opportunities and benefits of diversity.

For further details on any of these **free** one-day courses below, please contact **Jan** at **CVS** on **01234 354366** or email: **jan@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk**



New - Child Protection Training

Thursday 7th June 2007

This is for your group if you work with children, take part in activities involving children, organise playgroups, run a crèche, or are responsible for setting up a child protection policy

From £10 per delegate

Please contact **Jan** at **CVS** on **01234 354366** or email: **jan@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk** to book your place



BME Organisations are invited to send staff on FREE Training

Accredited NVQ Level 3 in Management

Do you perform a management role/function as an employee, management committee member, trustee or volunteer in a voluntary or community organisation?

Would you like to gain a qualification that acknowledges your experience and skills?

NO examinations

The course is portfolio-based and builds on and develops the experience and skills you have been using, whilst providing workshops to underpin your knowledge and ensure your success.

Please contact **Jan** at **CVS** on **01234 354366** or email: **jan@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk**

Relate - Life Skills Courses

April to July

Volunteer Skills

A course designed for the Volunteer helper, and is aimed to increase awareness of issues faced, to develop communication skills: to develop problem-solving techniques, to help recognise and deal with difficult situations and understand the volunteers' limitations and boundaries. This is an OCN accredited course.

Counselling Skills For Non-Counsellors

This 4-day course covers the fundamentals of the counselling process. It teaches the skills of active listening, the need for clear boundaries and structure, ethical issues and the limitations of use of counselling skills. It shows the need for support, self awareness and enabling change. This is an OCN accredited course.

Further Application of Counselling Skills

A 4-day accredited course which follows on from the Counselling Skills for Non-Counsellors course, covering similar skills but to a deeper level.

Contact the **Relate Life Skills** office on **01234 342503**. Cost per course: up to £250.

Green Issues

Charities, Voluntary and Community Groups are increasingly being encouraged to improve their environmental efficiency, in terms of reducing energy consumption and waste. The following national and local information may assist in achieving that aim:

Every Action Counts

Funded by **Defra**, **Every Action Counts (EAC)** aims to engage national and local voluntary and community sector organisations in work to protect and improve our environment, and to deliver sustainable development solutions. It provides support and resources for voluntary and community groups and community development workers, focusing on five sustainable development themes:

- Save Our Resources
- Shop Ethically
- Save Energy
- Travel Wisely
- Care For Your Area

www.everyactioncounts.org.uk

The site contains lots of useful information, such as easy actions that groups can take to improve their environment; success stories; and FAQs. There is an online evaluator that leads groups through a process of self-evaluation and guides them through actions they can take to improve their situation.

Taking part

EAC's message is that any group, however small, can make a difference. Groups can register with **EAC** to receive access to online toolkits and other resources; evaluate how future-friendly the group currently is; log actions taken to become more sustainable; and track their progress. Groups that register receive a bumper 'Community Pack' containing useful resources to get started on the road to sustainable development, and a fun game to begin the process of self-evaluation. **EAC** aims to involve some 14,000 community groups over the lifetime of the project.

Community champions

EAC is looking for over 1,000 local community activists to lead change in their neighbourhoods. Community champions will help community groups in their area to take stock of their current environmental impact, and to create their own sustainable development action plans.

Tips on how to go Carbon Neutral

REDUCE: by doing fewer things that use up energy supplies and by using more efficient supplies and vehicles.

RENEW: by getting the electricity that you still need either by generating it yourself, by using low carbon sources or purchasing from renewable suppliers.

REPLACE: by offsetting the remaining carbon emissions by investing in tree planting or other projects that replace carbon dioxide.

Find out how Ashton Hayes is aiming to become England's first Carbon Neutral Village at **www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk**

Tips for your Organisation

Change a light - Replacing one regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb.

Drive less - Walk, bike, car share or use public transport more often.

Recycle more

Check your tyres - Keeping your tyres inflated properly can improve petrol consumption by more than 3%.

Use less hot water - It takes a lot of energy to heat water. Use less hot water. With a kettle only fill it with the amount you are going to use for your cup of coffee or tea!

Avoid products with lots of packaging

Adjust your thermostat - Move your thermostat down just a few degrees in winter and up a few degrees in the summer.

Plant a tree

Turn off electronic devices - Simply turning your computer off and not leaving electronic devices on stand by when you are not using them.

Local Information

Beds Waste Exchange - **www.eastex.org.uk/beds** - aims to reduce the quantity of useful material disposed of in landfill sites by providing a forum where the material can be advertised and re-used.

Please visit our new Green Issues page on our website for the latest news on how your organisation can play its part in combating Climate Change:

www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/cvsmidandnorthbeds/GreenIssues.asp

COLLABORATIVE WORKING

Public Service Commissioning: Tell us what to do!

It is becoming increasingly clear that the Government's intention to include Voluntary, Community Groups and Social Enterprises (they now call us the 'Third Sector') in delivering Government Services has now moved from planning to the 'reality and action' stage. Services they are currently inviting our sector to deliver include health and social care, legal advice and information, prison and probation, parent and family support, learning and skills, access to work, community transport, waste management, to name but a few! Our organisations may either get a quiet invitation from, say, our local authority or PCT to become involved or may find public services are 'put out to open tender'. If Third Sector organisations want to deliver public services we will have to compete with other potential providers from the independent (private) sector as well as our own and as a result, learn a whole set of different skills and adapt our organisations to meet 'contractual requirements'. (For those who want to know more, a good start is to read the 'Partnership in Public Services – New Government Action Plan for Third Sector Involvement' which can be found on www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector/public_service_delivery)

The third sector is therefore involved in a period of even more rapid change. As a CVS we need to ensure our support services continue to meet your needs. We have already taken some steps to reconfigure our services but now we need to listen to you.

Within the next four weeks we will be circulating a questionnaire to organisations to help us identify what more we need to do to help support your organisations and especially in the light of 'Public Service Commissioning and Consortium Working'. The questionnaire will also help us target the new Collaborative Working project resources and evaluate the project. Both the survey report and the Collaborative Work Plan will appear on the CVS website so, as progress is made, it is there for all to see.

You will be aware from the last edition of Bedsread, we recently appointed **Ian Curtis** as Collaborative Working Officer. His role is to deliver the 'Collaborative Working' Plan and assist organisations, often through partnership working, to address development issues such as funding, research, back office services, policy development, service commissioning, campaigning and governance to name but a few. He can be contacted by e mail on ian@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk or Tel: **01234 354366**.

New Partnership Opportunities to overcome I.T. and Accounting Support Problems

Following discussions with several organisations the need to establish two 'task and finish' working groups has been identified.

Whilst one group will collectively explore the problems and provision of effective I.T. services to VCS organisations in our area, the other will do the same around ensuring we have good support with book-keeping, accounting and payroll services.

Ian Curtis, Collaborative Working Officer said "Whilst some organisations struggle to find good people to provide IT support or help with book keeping and accounts, others told me they know they pay too much for these services. If we get together, define what we need, we can then decide how best to move forward. It may be that the partnerships decide to create new Social Enterprises to deliver these services or alternatively develop lists of 'Preferred Suppliers' with the necessary specialist skills. Either way we aim to overcome these problems with cost-effective solutions."

For more information or to become a member of one or more of these partnership groups please contact **Ian** on **01234 354366** or by email ian@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk. Please make contact before 7th May.

Visit our Collaborative Working page at www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/cvsmidandnorthbeds/CollaborativeWorking.asp for more information on other collaborative working issues and frameworks

SNIPPETS

SAMARITANS

Information Days

If you're interested in finding out what it means to be a **Samaritan**, please come along to one of our information days. You can learn all about what we do, with no pressure to volunteer yourself.

Next information days are -

Saturday 5th May 10-11am or 11-12am & Tuesday 8th May 7-8pm or 8-9pm

at 23 Foster Hill Road, Bedford. Hope to see you there!

National Carers Week 2007

Bedfordshire Carers Exchange will be promoting National Carers Week for the fifth year running with a series of events in the South, Mid & North Bedfordshire.

Focusing on this year's theme: **My Life as a Carer**, Carers Week 2007 will highlight the impact being a carer can have - whether struggling to make ends meet, missing out on promotion at work or watching relationships suffer.

National Carers Week 2007 (11th – 17th June) will also be a time when some of the thousands of carers who take part in our annual event will be able to meet other carers and exchange experiences of looking after a relative, partner or friend who is ill, frail or has a disability and reduce the isolated feelings that carers can sometimes feel.

This year's events will be:-

- **Tuesday 12th June 12.30 – 4pm, The Memorial Hall, Green Lane, Houghton Regis**
- **Wednesday 13th June 10am – 3.30pm, The Harpur Suite, The Market Place, Bedford**
- **Friday 15th June 10am – 3pm, Parkside Hall, Woburn Street, Ampthill.**

For more information contact: **Bedfordshire Carers Short Breaks Bureau**: Tel: Free-phone **0800 039 1234**

Minimum Wage Increase

As from 1st October 2007 the **National Minimum Wage** will increase again as follows. Adult rate (workers aged 22 and over) will increase to £5.52. Also the rate for 18-21 year-olds will increase to £4.60 and the rate for 16-17 year-olds will increase to £3.40.

Furniture/Equipment looking for a good home

2 small desktop colour inkjet printers; 1 large shoe rack (could be used for leaflet display?); 1 small stationery cupboard; 1 very large filing cabinet with sliding front; 1 PC – (Pentium 2, windows 98); 1 table

First come, first served – please call **Fiona** on **01234 354366**

Proposed Mid Beds Credit Union Credit Union Consultation Event

For some time now a Mid Beds Credit Union Focus Group has been working on proposals to set up a Credit Union in Mid Beds. The stage has now been reached where the views of the local voluntary and community sector are needed. If you are interested in taking part in that consultation visit **www.tacklingpoverty-beds.org.uk**, where you can complete an online questionnaire. Alternatively, you may wish attend a Consultation Event on 18th May at the Offices of Mid Beds District Council at Chicksands. If so contact **Len Simkins** on **01234 360607**. For more information visit: **www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/cvsmidandnorthbeds/CreditUnion.asp**



Don't forget to visit

www.cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk

For the latest information relating to the local voluntary & community sector



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