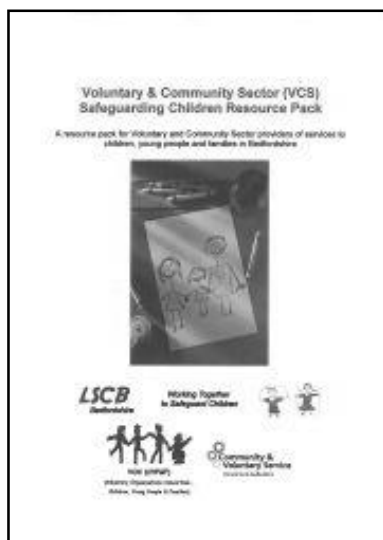


BEDS-SPREAD

August 2007



Voluntary & Community Sector Safeguarding Children Resource Pack Launched

A **Safeguarding Children Resource Pack** for Bedfordshire Voluntary and Community Groups has been launched and is now available to download from the **CVS - Mid and North Beds** website. The pack includes:

- How to Compile a Safeguarding Resource Pack
- A Model Safeguarding Policy
- A Model Logging Concerns Sheet
- A Model Safeguarding Children Procedure
- A Model Designated Safeguarding Children Champion Specification
- Guidance for a Code of Conduct for Staff and Volunteers
- Guidance for Staff and Volunteer Selection and Training
- Guidance on the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Procedure

This is a 'must have' resource for any group that involves young people. You can download the pack from www.cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk now!

Changes at CVS - Mid & North Beds

You will note from the adjoining list of contacts that there have been a number of changes in personnel over the last couple of months at CVS - Mid & North Beds. We are pleased to welcome **Gianna Cave** (as PA to the Chief Officer) and **Kayleigh Brennan** (as Office Assistant) to the team.

In addition we wish **Fiona Gaunt** all the best in her new job at Bedfordshire County Council.

Please remember to contact the team to assist you with all your voluntary sector queries. We are here to help.



Community & Voluntary Service

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Contacts

To email the people below simply prefix the individual's first name to cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk

<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>Kayleigh Brennan</i>	<i>Office Assistant</i>
<i>Gianna Cave</i>	<i>PA to Chief Officer</i>

CVS - Mid & North Beds operations are funded by:

Bedfordshire County Council, Bedford Borough Council, Mid Bedfordshire District Council, Change Up, The Learning & Skills Council & the Bedford Charity

Serving the Voluntary and Community Sector in Mid and North Bedfordshire

Registered Charity: 1091423

TRAINING

Support and Supervision of Staff

*Wednesday 26th September 2007
9.45am to 4.30pm
at CVS - Mid & North Beds Offices*

The course is for:

Those managing paid staff, or those who have some experience and require a framework for their supervisory skills.

The aim of this workshop is :

- to give delegates a best-practice framework within which to work
- to give a working knowledge of the issues surrounding support and supervision of staff

During the day we will cover:

- Fundamentals of staff supervision
- Appraisals
- Giving feedback
- Poor performance in staff
- Personal support at work
- Staff performance review and appraisal

Making Good Funding Applications

*Thursday 27th September 2007
9.45am to 4.30pm
at CVS - Mid & North Beds Offices*

The course is for you if you...

- want to develop your understanding of, and skills in, writing good funding applications

The aim of the workshop is to:

- develop understanding of how to make grant applications - to local authorities, companies, trusts etc - more effective
- practice the above skills

During the day we will cover:

- What are funders looking for?
- What information do we need?
- Being realistic
- How to structure and present the most convincing application
- Common pitfalls and how to avoid them

Roles and Responsibilities of Charity Trustees

*Tuesday 9th October 2007
9.45am to 4.30pm
at CVS - Mid & North Beds Offices*

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)

The aim of this workshop is :

- to increase awareness and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Trustees
- to show how this relates to the role of staff

During the day we will cover:

- What are the roles and responsibilities of Trustees?
- What is governance and how is it different from management?
- What's the legal position?
- What does this mean in practice?
- How do the roles of the Board, its members and staff relate to one another?

Cost & Bookings for these workshops

£10 per delegate. For further details please contact **Jan** at **CVS** on **01234 354366** or email: **jan@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk**

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?

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**

UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE

On 25th July 2007 **Local Government Minister John Healey** announced that **Bedford Borough Council's** bid for unitary status had been successful, whilst **Bedfordshire County Council's** had not. The Bedford Borough Council proposal was based on the proposition that the rest of Bedfordshire should become unitary and so the Secretary of State invited Bedfordshire County Council, Mid Beds District Council and South Beds District Council to submit proposals for a unitary solution for '**Central Bedfordshire**'. The intention was that all the new authorities would be fully up-and-running in 2009. However, on 6th August 2007, Bedfordshire County Council announced that it was mounting a legal challenge to the Government's decision to back a unitary council for the Borough of Bedford. The challenge, known as a Judicial Review, could take up to nine months. What is not in doubt is that Local Unitary Government is coming to Bedfordshire and will affect the local voluntary sector.

To assist the Government in arriving at their decision CVS - Mid and North Beds made an initial submission on behalf of the voluntary sector in Mid and North Beds, which pointed out that all the bids made little or no reference to how a unitary authority would work with the voluntary or community sector. The submission also suggested some principles for a positive relationship between the voluntary sector and a unitary authority.

The creation of unitary authorities will provide a real opportunity for the voluntary sector to seek a step-change in the relationship between the statutory and voluntary sector, especially in the areas of Partnership Working and Funding. CVS is keen to gather your views on what you would like to see in a future relationship between the new unitary authorities and the local voluntary and community sector. If you have any suggestions, ideas or good examples you would like to share, please contact **Martin Trinder** on **01234 354366** or email **martin@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk** and make your views known so we can incorporate them in any future submission. We are looking at one or more specific events where you will also be able to air your views, so look out for further details in the near future.

FUNDING

It's Your Community

The Conservation Foundation and **O2** have launched a new award scheme to help provide funding for projects designed to improve local environments throughout the UK. Awards are available up to £1000.

Who can apply?: Local amenity groups, Parish and village councils, Youth clubs, Heritage groups, Environmental and conservation groups and Individuals.

It's Your Community categories:

- **Community Places** - *Improving the places communities share.* Reinvigorating community, amenity and recreation areas, for example, installing new equipment for a playground, repairing a pavilion roof, erecting a community noticeboard...
- **Community People** - *Helping bring people together.* Creating a sense of ownership and social responsibility, for example, promoting personal safety awareness to young people, supporting a self-help group for elderly people...
- **Community Pride** - *Tackling issues head on and restoring a sense of pride.* Clearing litter and rubbish, removing graffiti...
- **Community Landscape** - *Improving communities' natural environments.* Creating community gardens, planting trees, improving public access to riverbanks...

How to apply: Application is only via the new dedicated website - **www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk**



Fundraising Toolkit
Download Your Copy from:
www.cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONING

HM Treasury Review of the Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration: 24th July 2007

This is the Treasury's final report which sets out the Government's approach to the voluntary and community sector and follows the interim report published in December 2006. It is a "must read" for those wishing to understand government-related 'shifts' in the third sector's business operating environment. Go to:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/2/7/

[future_of_the_third_sector_in_social_economicregeneration.pdf](#)

NCVO statement on the HM Treasury's 'Third Sector Review' Final Report (24th July 2007). NCVO says "Third Sector Review demonstrates a significant shift in the Government's approach to the voluntary and community sector". NCVO have published two documents on this subject. Firstly their 'Summary of Key Announcements' which summarises the 'Third Sector Review' and is a relatively quick read. (Go to:

www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/policy/index.asp?id=5776 Secondly they have a press release "NCVO Statement on Third Sector Review" 24th July 2007: Go to : www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/press/releases/?id=5764

'Hearts and Minds: Commissioning Public Services from the Voluntary Sector'

NCVO press release welcomes Audit Commission Report called '**Hearts and Minds: Commissioning Public Services from the Voluntary Sector**' (31st July 2007) as the report now recognises that the role of the voluntary sector is to 'campaign, identify public need and design services' as well as be providers of public services through commissioning and procurement. For the NCVO reaction go to www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/press/releases/d5874. Whilst this report is primarily targeted at Local Government Commissioning Officers and gives detail to the "extent and nature of the voluntary sector's delivery of public services, the locally perceived impact of government efforts to build capacity, and the current state of commissioning and procurement practice", this is a "must read" for those of you who want to know what they are thinking! Go to: www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/388669

SNIPPETS

Pioneer Group - We need a leader!

The Pioneer Group is a support group for people living with a long-term condition. We have found that people living with chronic conditions face similar issues that have required them to make significant life changes. Everyone seems to benefit from meeting with other people in similar situations and we aim to encourage the development of a more positive, confident and active lifestyle, helping people to help themselves. The group set up in 2003, after completing a self-management course. The group consists of a number of enthusiastic individuals, but unfortunately the founding chairman has had to step down from his position due to illness. We are therefore now looking for a volunteer to help lead the group and bring new ideas to help benefit more people.

We would like someone full of enthusiasm and an understanding of living with a long-term condition, who wants to help people to help themselves. If you would like more information please contact **Kate Parsons**, group secretary, on **01234 351150**.

Are you a Black and Minority Ethnic Group? Giving Advice & Information to your Community? Would you like to achieve a Quality Standard relevant to your work?

Bedford Race Equality Council (BREC) are looking for six BME groups to pilot the new **Q-cas**, Quality Assurance System for Community Advice Groups in Bedfordshire. The quality standard will be available at three levels and will be accompanied by a comprehensive support programme containing templates, draft policies and procedures, guidance materials and training courses. Each of the three levels of the standard will cover four themes, namely Awareness of your community, Building your organisation, Competence in advice work and Delivering effective services. Evidence will be required to show that organisations have achieved the required standard for each theme.

This is a **FREE** opportunity! Contact **Linda Wood** or **Purva Joshi** on **01234 350459** to find out more.