

BEDS-SPREAD

September 2007

Bedfordshire and Luton Compact New Funding and Procurement Code of Practice

The Bedfordshire and Luton Compact is a working document aimed at developing a close, efficient and more effective equal working partnership between local voluntary and community organisations and statutory agencies.

The local **Compact** was launched at the Rufus Centre on 19th September 2002, with leaders of local statutory and voluntary sector bodies signing up to this historic document. More detailed Codes of Good Practice in respect of Funding, Volunteering, Consultation & Partnership and Equality & Diversity were published in July 2004, together with a Monitoring & Mediation Policy. It has however now become apparent that the Funding Code needs revision in light of the move towards the procurement of services by the local statutory sector. Procurement is the name given to the strategy covering the public purchase of goods, works or services from a third party.

Your input is now vital in carrying out a fundamental review of the Funding Code to incorporate Procurement and a series of meetings have been arranged to facilitate this, with the first meeting taking place on **Monday 1st October at 1pm**, with lunch provided for a 1.30pm start till 4pm at the offices of **Mid Beds District Council at Chicksands**.

If you wish to become involved please contact **Jan Warnier** on **01234 354366** or **jan@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk**. Please visit the **Beds and Luton Compact** website at **www.bedsandlutoncompact.org.uk** to view the overarching Compact document and its associated Codes.



Community & Voluntary Service

Mid and North Bedfordshire
43 Bromham Road
Bedford
MK40 2AA

Tel: 01234 354366
Fax: 01234 347503

E-mail: info@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk
Web: www.cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk

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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>Linda Bulled</i>	<i>VOC 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>

Further Changes at CVS Mid and North Beds

Regrettably this month we are bidding farewell to **Family Network Officer, Mary Jurance**. We wish Mary all the very best wishes for the future.

At the same time we are pleased to welcome **Linda Bulled** to the team as the new **Voluntary Organisations Consortium Officer (VOCO)**. Some of you may know **Linda** from her work with **Autism Bedfordshire**.

Serving the Voluntary and Community Sector in Mid and North Bedfordshire

Registered Charity: 1091423

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

One-Day Conference "Social Enterprise Awareness"

Provisional date for your diary: **Tuesday 27th November 2007**

Venue: **Mid Beds District Council offices in Chicksands**

We are hoping to get funding for local social enterprise training, starting off with a one-day conference on **Tuesday 27th November** entitled "**Social Enterprise Awareness**". The conference is aimed at voluntary organisations encouraging them to become more financially sustainable.

The event will increase participants' awareness and understanding of the term "social enterprise". Participants will have the opportunity to explore the relevance of social enterprise to their organisation and look at the operating similarities and differences between social enterprises and other organisations, including charities and voluntary organisations.

The programme is still at the planning stage, but it is proposed that the day will consist of two presentations in the morning. One will be an introduction to social enterprise as a concept, giving participants an understanding of what it actually is, and the second presentation will illustrate social enterprise examples.

The afternoon will consist of two workshops, each running twice, so that delegates can attend both. The workshops planned are "**Turning your Ideas into Reality**", in other words, "**Marketing your Products and Services**", which will also help voluntary groups to learn how to secure finance where necessary. The second workshop will be "**Choosing a Legal Structure for Social Enterprise**".

Watch this space: Once the funding is confirmed, we will advise you of the definite programme.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Bedford Hospital's Plans to Become a Foundation Trust

More involvement for patients and increased accountability to the people of Bedford

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

Date: Thursday 4th October 2007

Time: 12.30pm to 2.30pm (light buffet lunch included)

In applying to become a Foundation Trust, the hospital is keen to consult with voluntary services about how the change will benefit them and how they can become involved in supporting the hospital and shaping its future, so if you are interested, come along to a presentation, followed by questions and a buffet lunch.

Becoming a Foundation Trust means that Bedford Hospital will:

- *Be able to decide locally how to meet patients' and communities' healthcare needs*
- *Be accountable to local people through a system of membership and elected governors*
- *Be able to manage finances, keeping any surplus funds and reinvesting them to benefit the hospital and its patients*
- *Be able to borrow money for investment in the hospital within agreed limits*
- *Have more flexibility to recruit, retain and reward staff*
- *Remain part of the NHS and continue to meet national performance targets*
- *Agree a long-term plan for the future direction of the hospital, including a five-year delivery plan and legally-binding contracts with commissioning services (PCTs).*

To reserve a **free place** at the "**Bedford Hospital Foundation Trust**" **Community Lunch** contact **Jan** at **CVS** on **01234 354366** or email: **jan@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk**

TRAINING

<p>Support and Supervision of Staff</p> <p><i>Wednesday 26th September 2007</i></p> <p>The aim of this workshop is :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Advance Notice - Future Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Management Committees – <i>Wednesday 23rd January 2008</i> Secrets of Successful Tendering – <i>Thursday 31st January 2008</i> Empowering the Voluntary Sector – <i>Tuesday 12th February 2008</i>
<p>Making Good Funding Applications</p> <p><i>Thursday 27th September 2007</i></p> <p>The aim of this workshop is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop understanding of how to make grant applications - to local authorities, companies, trusts etc - more effective practise the above skills 	<p>Cost and bookings for these workshops</p> <p>£10 per delegate. For further details please contact Jan at CVS on 01234 354366 or email: jan@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk</p> <p><i>All workshops: 9.45am to 4.30pm at CVS Mid & North Beds Offices</i></p>
<p>Roles and Responsibilities of Charity Trustees</p> <p><i>Tuesday 9th October 2007</i></p> <p>The aim of this workshop is :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to increase awareness and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Trustees to show how this relates to the role of staff 	<p>BME Organisations are invited to send staff on FREE Training</p> <p><i>Last Opportunity to Register</i></p> <p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Please contact Jan at CVS on 01234 354366 or email: jan@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk</p>

SNIPPETS

Free Photocopier

The Bedford Charity have a photocopier they wish to donate to a good home. It's an **Infotech 51822**, that photocopies A4 and A3 . It does not photocopy in colour and the top tray can be temperamental. It also does not link to a printer. If this could be of use to your organisation contact **Lucy Bardner** on **01234 369500** or at **lbardner@harpur-trust.org.uk**

Bedfordshire Women's Forum Meeting

Date: **17th October 2007**. Time: **9.45am - 1pm**. Venue: **Bunyan Meeting Rooms, Mill Street, Bedford**.
Shared Lunch from 12pm

*Subject: **Health and Well-Being***

Contact: **Glenis Orkisz** on **01234 350459** or **Glenis.Orkisz@ntlworld.com** for more details

FUNDING

Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds

The Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds are provided by the government to empower young people and to give them more choice and influence over provision and facilities in their area. The funding is available for projects for **young people aged 13 - 19**. In Bedfordshire, the fund is administered by **Beds County Council** and during the early part of September they are seeking fresh applications for funding.

Applications for the funds must involve young people in deciding on activities and formulating ideas of things to do. Adult workers may provide support for young people in completing the application forms.

Young people can get support towards making bids from the **Bedfordshire Youth Service**, through their local youth worker, or appropriate agency working with young people or you can email **Clare.hanley@bedscc.gov.uk** to ask about getting support. Please include your contact details and a short description of your project.

What can be funded? - the funding is for positive activities and facilities for young people at neighbourhood level, i.e. what young people want locally. Projects funded through the **Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds** can cover a range of issues and interests. For example:

- Improving a local games area to provide more varied outdoor activities for young people.
- Renovating a youth or community centre to make it more appealing to young people and encourage them to take part in organised activities.
- Providing activities for young people to enable them to learn new skills.

The Christopher H R Reeves Charitable Trust

The principal activity of the Trust is to make donations to charitable purposes, organisations or objects at the Trustees' discretion by making grants to organisations. Particularly interested in work with children/young people, older people, and people with disabilities. Area of benefit is Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire. Previous annual report indicates grants are usually from £500 to £5000, with most grants being about £1000.

Contact: **Hinwick Lodge Farm, Hinwick, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN29 7JQ. Telephone: 01234 781090**

Save Money for your Sports Club - Community Amateur Sports Clubs Scheme

Is your club looking to save money? Are you looking for ways to fund new facilities or invest in existing ones? Would paying dramatically-reduced business rates or claiming money back on Gift Aid donations given to your club help your club's finances? **The Government's Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) Scheme** allows you to do just this. Since April 2002, more than 4,200 clubs have registered as **CASCs**, each saving an average of nearly £4,000 and ensuring more money raised by sport stays in sport.

What are the key benefits? - 80% mandatory business rate relief; the ability to raise funds from donations under Gift Aid; tax-free income from interest and capital gains (used for qualifying purposes); exemption from corporation tax on trading income (up to £30k) and income from property (up to £20k).

Visit www.hmrc.gov.uk/casc/ for more details.



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



FUNDING

Anti-Apathy Fix World, Feel Good Award

Anti-Apathy, in partnership with **UnLtd, The Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs**, has announced a joint initiative to find people with fresh and innovative ideas to help solve big problems, like climate change and poverty, in their own communities.

The **Anti-Apathy Fix World, Feel Good Award** is a 'get you started' grant scheme (up to £1,000) made to people who can show that a small amount of money can be used to make a difference. There are five awards of up to £1,000 to distribute in September 2007 and then one award each month to February 2008.

For more details about the grant scheme and for more details about being 'Anti-Apathetic' visit www.antiapathy.org.

BIG Community Assets Programme

The Big Lottery Fund will be launching the £30m **Community Assets** programme, funded by the **Office of the Third Sector**, in early September. The programme will make grants of between £150,000 to £1m to local authorities and third sector partners. Grants will be awarded to facilitate the transfer of genuine assets from local authorities to the third sector for their use as community resources. Grants will be awarded to partnerships between local authorities and the third sector to refurbish local authority-owned buildings and facilities. Further details of the programme will be published on **BIG's** website when the programme launches in September. Email: cap@biglotteryfund.org.uk

Age Concern Grants

Barclays Programme - The **Barclays** grants programme is open to most voluntary organisations in England who have an income or turnover of less than £50,000 per annum. The scheme offers grants of up to £150 towards new or expanding services or activities which directly benefit older people.

Bright Ideas - The **Bright Ideas** grants programme is open to most voluntary organisations in England who have an income or turnover of less than £200,000 per annum. The scheme offers grants of up to £2,000 towards new or expanding services or activities which directly benefit older people.

Download the Guidelines from www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/grant_giving.asp

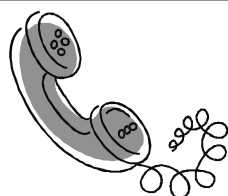
UK Waterways Grants Programme 2008

The Small Grants Scheme funds waterway wildlife conservation projects, especially ponds linked to canals, community-based projects to improve facilities on canals and inland waterways. Organisations, community groups or schools can apply. Grants awarded through the scheme do not usually exceed £1,000.

Applications should be received by **1 February 2008**. Complete the online form

www.thewaterwaystrust.org.uk/grants/index.shtml or download and email to:

jenny.rogers@thewaterwaystrust.org.uk



Contact Maxine or Jane for all your Funding Queries

01234 354366

maxine@cvsimidandnorthbeds.org.uk or
jane@cvsimidandnorthbeds.org.uk



MID BEDS CREDIT UNION UPDATE

As a result of a recommendation from the **Tackling Poverty Together in Bedfordshire Group's "Cost of Debt" Conference** (2005) a Focus Group was established to look into the possibility of establishing a **Credit Union in Mid Bedfordshire**. The feasibility research is now complete.

The conclusion from the research and consultation event was very positively in favour of the establishment of a credit union in Mid Beds. However, to start a new Credit Union from scratch would be too time-consuming, risky and costly, given the size of the district. The recommendation is therefore to extend the common bond area of **Bedford Credit Union** into the whole of Mid Beds.

The next step for the Focus Group has been to formally invite **Bedford Credit Union** to consider extending its common bond. If the invitation is accepted, **Bedford Credit Union** will draw up a business plan and seek approval from the **Financial Services Authority**. It is planned to form a Steering Group to assist **Bedford Credit Union** with this work. If you are interested in becoming a member of that group please contact **Mark Smith** on **01234 354366** or at mark@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the feasibility report please contact **Jill Dickinson** on **08458 495120** or email jill.dickinson@midbeds.gov.uk

CLIMATE CHANGE



Every Action Counts has been set up to help voluntary and community groups lead the way to a better future. Their mission statement emphasises that we all want to live happy, healthy and prosperous lives. And we also want the best for our children and grandchildren in the future too. But for this to happen, we need to make our world greener, cleaner, fairer and safer than it is today. We need to live within our environmental means and move to what **World Wildlife Fund** has called '**one planet living**'.

The **Every Action Counts** website continues to contain a wealth of resources to enable voluntary and community groups to do their bit in combating climate change. Visit the website for more details:

www.everyactioncounts.org.uk

Every Action Counts Fundraising Guide for Environmental Projects

Every Action Counts have issued a short guide that aims to help organisations who wish to raise money for environmental projects. The 25-page guide can be downloaded from their website and in addition to identifying potential funders also covers how to develop a successful bid. The guide can be downloaded from:

[http://project.everyactioncounts.biz/newsletter/
EACFundingForEnvironmentalProjects.pdf](http://project.everyactioncounts.biz/newsletter/EACFundingForEnvironmentalProjects.pdf)

A Practical Toolkit for Communities Aiming for Carbon Neutrality

The small Cheshire village of **Ashton Hayes** has been at the forefront of communities aiming to become Carbon Neutral (www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk) and they have just issued '**A Practical Toolkit for Communities Aiming for Carbon Neutrality**'. This can be downloaded from:

http://ruralnet.typepad.com/rccn/files/ashton_hayes_toolkit.pdf

COLLABORATIVE WORKING

Collaborative Working Towards Public Service Delivery

CVS Mid & North Beds has now launched its new advice and support services for those community groups, voluntary organisations and social enterprises who wish to form partnerships or consortia to deliver public services.

Ian Curtis, Collaborative Working Officer at **CVS** said, "More public authorities, including local authorities, health and the **Learning and Skills Council**, are inviting groups of third sector organisations to respond to tenders as 'consortia' rather than as individual organisations. Unlike the private sector, few examples of consortia and sub contracting exist in our sector, but this is what is being demanded of us as government want to ensure they achieve economies through procurement of public services from the third sector. We are beginning to develop 'off the shelf' responses which support various partnership models but we are in 'early days' just yet."

The **CVS** works closely with the **National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) Collaborative Working Unit** which has recently produced a number of guides on this subject.

A leaflet outlining the new '**Collaborative Working Towards Public Service Delivery**' advice and support services, with web links to both **NCVO** and the **Charity Commission**, is enclosed with this edition of Beds Spread. It can also be accessed through the **CVS** website on **www.cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk**.

The **Collaborative Working Project** is funded by the **Bedford Charity** and '**Change Up**', the Government's grant funding for infrastructure organisations.

Contact: Email: ian@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk or Tel: **01234 354366**

THE CRANFIELD TRUST

This is often a time of year for voluntary organisations to review the way forward. **The Cranfield Trust** can help you in this process as they provide a free management consultancy service to groups in Bedfordshire and across the UK. The service is available all year round and they now have capacity to take on more projects. If you have a project in mind and would like help from one of their team of 640 skilled volunteers from the commercial sector, please let them know.

The **Trust's** volunteers provide consultancy on a friendly one-to-one basis across a wide range of management fields. Projects might include:

- Updating your business plan
- Considering a new trading opportunity that you require help with planning
- Taking a fresh look at your marketing plan
- Resolving staffing issues (e.g. reviewing salary scales, reporting structure, team building)
- Seeking to achieve sustainability by entering into service contracts

Each project is individually tailored to meet the particular needs of the organisation that the volunteer is working with. Through this method, **Trust** volunteers have successfully worked with client organisations on more than 1,000 consultancy projects.

Trust volunteers also offer support through **HRNet**, a specialist internet-based advice service for organisations without a personnel professional.

Contact: **The Cranfield Trust, Court Room Chambers, 1 Bell Street Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8GY.**
Tel **01794 830338**. Email admin@cranfieldtrust.org. Website: www.cranfieldtrust.org

ACCOMMODATION FOR THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

Lunchtime briefing – 12.15pm – Thursday 20th September 2007

CVS Mid & North Beds is undertaking a feasibility study for providing quality and affordable long-term accommodation for voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises, and we would appreciate your help.

A large number of local organisations are having ongoing difficulties with regards to their premises. We are sure many of you will relate to the list below:

- Short-term leases providing constant uncertainty and repeated relocation of staff.
- Long-term leases with no early break clauses.
- Poor or non-existent facilities' management leaving staff and volunteers to carry out basic repairs and maintenance jobs.
- Accommodation that is cramped and unsuitable which restricts opportunities to develop services or diversify into other activities.
- Premises that do not give a professional impression to funders and clients alike.
- No opportunities to share resources with other organisations and keep costs down.



CVS is holding a lunchtime briefing on **Thursday 20th September 2007 at 12.15pm** to discuss the concept of a 'third sector' building and we would appreciate your time and views on such a facility. At this stage we are not asking any organisation to give a firm commitment to relocate but if you are interested we would be very happy to hear from you by **20th September**.

We hope that you can give us 1½ hours of your time and we will provide lunch and refreshments. If you can make this meeting please let us know for catering purposes by phoning **Gianna Cave** on **01234 354366** or email **gianna@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk**

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 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**: **15th October 2007**

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

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