

Voluntary Matters

Issue Number 90

April 09



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



Voluntary and Community Sector News in Luton

**Don't miss out
Book Now**

Heritage Lottery Fund

On the 23rd April 2009 Jonathan Latchford from The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) will be at the Voluntary Action Luton offices at 15 New Bedford Road in Luton to talk about funding opportunities and your project ideas.

Heritage includes many different things from the past that we value and want to pass on to future generations.

If you don't think your project is Heritage, then take a look at the list below to see what sorts of project HLF can fund:

Heritage projects might include:

- people's memories and experiences
- histories of people, communities, places and events
- cultural traditions
- historic buildings and townscapes
- archaeological sites
- collections of items, archives or other materials
- natural and designed landscapes
- habitats and species
- sites and collections links to our industrial, maritime and transport history.

If you have a potential project but are not sure if it is something that HLF can fund, please contact **Jonathan** on (01223) 224 883 to talk through your ideas, or email him at jonathanl@hlf.org.uk

To book a place for the seminar and a one-to-one with Jonathan, contact Jean Myrie at Voluntary Action Luton on 01582 733418 or email her at jean.myrie@valuton.org.uk

Seminar commences at 10am -12 noon.

One-to-ones there after.

Luton Assembly Election -

**Nomination deadline is extended!.....d!
To Wednesday 1st April 09**

Stronger and Safer Communities (Crime), Environment and Economy, Health and Wellbeing (including older people) and Children and Young People.

Are you passionate about the voluntary and community sector and would like to represent the sector in any of the above themed areas? This is your opportunity to get involved with decision making at a strategic level by sitting on one of the above themed network committees

The nomination phase of the Luton Assembly election should now be over, the Assembly Committee, however have decided to extend the deadline by 2 weeks.

Interest shown has been amazing and the response we have received during this nomination phase has surpassed all previous years. This year we have received 17 nominations. Although this is a huge increase on previous years we need to elect 32 candidates to the new, revitalised Assembly restructure.

If you thought about a nomination to the Assembly via one of the themed networks but missed the deadline now is your chance.

The new **deadline is 1200hrs, Wednesday 1st April**. If you have considered the opportunity but are unsure if it is for you, discuss the matter informally with the Assembly Coordinator Lorna Brown on **01582 733418**

There is a Nomination Form on page 4 of this Newsletter, just complete, sign, tear off and send with a small picture of yourself and a profile of no more than 200 words to:

Voluntary Action Luton,
FREEPOST, ANG 7874,
LUTON, LU1 1BR

Further information about the election and restructure and a copy of the Nomination form can be found on the Assembly Website www.lutonassembly.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Newsletter Copy Dates

If you would like an event or item included in any Newsletter, please email a copy to us by the closing dates 2009 are

1st June, 3rd August, 5th October, 4th December
Please don't forget to let us know if your contact details change.

Please send changes to:

sue.lovegrove@valuton.org.uk

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Please send copy to Sue Lovegrove, at VAL

15 New Bedford Road, Luton, LU1 1SA

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Training Workshops

Fundraising Strategy

Date Monday 30th March 2009
Time 9.30am - 3.30pm
Venue Voluntary Action Luton

Introduction

A fundraising strategy is a plan that sets out what your organisation is set up to do; its main tasks, funding priorities over a period of time e.g. one to three or five years, costing for these, how you intend to raise that money and what you will do at the end of this period.

This necessitates that you look at your organisational planning in terms of stages: Long term i.e. strategic planning - your overall purposes and aims; medium term - business planning e.g. resources need to achieve your aims; and short term - operational planning.

This workshop will assist you in planning to meet your organisation's objectives.

Quality Assurance Systems

Date Tuesday 21st April 2009
Time 9.30am - 3.30pm
Venue Voluntary Action Luton

Introduction

Quality Assurance aims to ensure that the product or service an organisation provides is fit for purpose and meets both internal and external requirements, including legal compliance and customer expectations.

Since maintaining quality demands adaptation to customer expectations, a variety of measures are used to place quality at the heart of an organisation. These include management systems or standards such as PQASSO, ISO 900, and Matrix amongst others.

With the existence of several quality standards, each setting out expectations that a quality organisation should meet — how do you decide which one is right for your organisation?

Booking Process

To secure your place, please complete the enclosed booking form.

For more information about any of these workshop please contact: Jean Myrie by phone on **01582 733418** or via email jean.myrie@valuton.org.uk or you can also download a booking form from our website. www.voluntaryworks.org.uk

Most of our courses are free but some may carry a minimum charge of £10-12 per candidate.



Working in partnership with Volunteers Needed



Luton Borough Council is encouraging people to sign up and volunteer to support older people and people with disabilities in the community.

Various volunteering opportunities are already available and we are working hard to match the right volunteer to the right opportunity. This undertaking will form an important part of the Personalisation Agenda, which will give vulnerable people more choice and control in the way they receive their services.

There are a huge number of ways you can get involved, for example by:

- Supporting someone to go out, ie to the shops, cinema, football match, etc.
- Helping out at your local Day Centre by chatting, playing board and memory games, making tea and coffee
- Sharing a skill – painting, music, dance, computers, etc.

If you have some spare time and would like to get involved, for an informal chat and more information please contact:

Iris Beazley, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Voluntary Action Luton,
15 New Bedford Road, Luton, LU1 1SA.

01582 733418 Email: iris.beazley@valuton.org.uk

Beds LINK News



Beds LINK held the first Training Workshop on 5th March at Shortstown for the new Board and LINK Members. Subjects covered were Helping the LINK work within a restricted budget and strategies for exploring social care issues. The workshop was led by training expert Andrew Lawrence who has experience in training other UK LINK organisations.

The team joined in a Patient Experience Workshop at the Luton & Dunstable Hospital where users of the service were invited to have their say about changes they would like to see implemented at the hospital. Two of the issues raised were improved car parking with the introduction of a Park & Ride system and the provision of more single sex wards with improved toilet facilities.

The new website is now taking shape and will have links to VALUTON and other partners and will hopefully be up and running by the end of May following staff training to access and edit the site.

Operations Manager, Charlotte Bonser, has sent out a survey on healthcare provision checks to all LINK members and written a blog for the National Centre for Involvement

International Womens Day was attended by Support Officer, Marian Courtney at Bedford Library and the Grove Theatre in Dunstable which resulted in new members signing up to the LINK.

Vice Chair of the LINK, Norma Bartlett and Marketing & Membership Administrator, Nikki Dalrymple will be recording a promotion for the L&D Hospital Radio and hope to extend a similar recording to Bedford Hospital.

For more information contact Nikki Dalrymple on **01582 733418** or email her on nikki.dalrymple@valuton.org.uk



Join Lutons' involvement with National Family Week

This year between 25th and 31st May will be the first celebration of National Family Week. The week will comprise of a number of nationwide events, such as "biggest picnic" on Bank Holiday Monday, and "Family Feast" on the following Sunday, but also lots of local events will be brought together under Family Week either that are already happening, or that have been planned specially to coincide with Family Week.

A number of the organisations working with the Children and Young People of Luton, including VISION 4CYP have committed to working together in Luton towards National Family Week.

Family Week will offer lots of opportunities for promotion and sharing of good practice, particularly as we will be working together towards this theme. Get your organisation involved. If you have events that are happening at that time that you can tie in to Family Week, or you would like to organise a Family Week event, that can be promoted both locally and nationally please contact Christine King, Voluntary Action Luton, **01582 733418** or email christine.king@valuton.org.uk

Delivering Every Child Matters – Working Together

Tuesday 28th April

9.15am for 9.30am – 1.00pm
The Hat Factory, Luton

Luton Children's Trust, supported by VISION 4CYP (the network of voluntary organisations working with Children and Young People) present this event to find out more and to encourage contributions from the Voluntary and Community Sector working with Children and Young People. Lunch will be provided.

The event will cover:

- the development of Commissioning in the Children's Service,
- the new neighbourhood delivery of the Children's Service,
- development of the Children's Workforce and the Voluntary Sector,
- the renew and refresh of Luton's Children and Young Peoples Plan.

For more details or to book your place please contact Christine King, Voluntary Action Luton,

01582 733418 or email christine.king@valuton.org.uk



Volunteers Wanted to take Part of Britains Biggest Picnic

As part of Luton's involvement with National Family Week, Luton will be taking part in a record-breaking attempt for the biggest picnic. On Bank Holiday Monday 25th May as part of Luton Carnival, an area will be set aside for picnicking.

We will need volunteers in the area on the day to help with signage, promotion, registering participants as they join the picnic, and monitoring participants hampers to ensure that the contents comprise of the official definition of a picnic in line with the requirements of a record breaking attempt.

If you are available to volunteer please contact Christine King at Voluntary Action Luton, **01582 733418** or email christine.king@valuton.org.uk

Local Children and Young People's Plan Update Event

You may have read about a stakeholder event for all partners who deliver services to children and young people that was due to take place on 1st April focusing on the review and refresh of Luton's Children and Young Peoples Plan.

The event will now take place on **22nd June, 9.30am – 1.00pm** at the same venue the Riverside Conference Centre, Gypsy Lane, LUTON, LU1 3JH.

If you are interested in attending this event please contact Stephanie Cash, Luton Borough Council, **01582 547980** or email stephanie.cash@luton.gov.uk

New Date Vetting and Barring Event 2nd April 2009

An event informing about Vetting and Barring, the new way to check the suitability of potential employees and volunteers in contact with vulnerable people that will work alongside the current CRB checks was cancelled in February because of bad weather.

The event has now been rearranged to take place at the Pasque Hospice, on **2nd April from 9.30am – 1pm** (lunch provided).

Advance booking is required. If you would like to attend the event please contact Christine King, Voluntary Action Luton, **01582 733418** or email christine.king@valuton.org.uk



www.lutonassembly.org.uk
lorna.brown@valuton.org.uk
01582 733418

Nomination Form

Elections 2009

To Be a Representative for the Voluntary & Community Sector on the
Luton Assembly's themed network committees

Which Network do you want to be elected onto?

Tick one box only: Children & Young People [] Environment & Economy []
Safer & Stronger (crime) [] Health & Wellbeing (including older people) []

Nominee Name
(CAPITALS).....

Nominee's organisation

Nominee's e-mail.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Nominee Details – A profile (Maximum 200 words) of the candidate must be provided
on a separate sheet indicating the skills and knowledge that the nominee will bring to the
role. If possible, please enclose a small photograph of the nominee.

Signature of Nominee.....

Name of Proposer (CAPITALS).....

Signature of Proposer (Member of Organisation).....

Deadline 1200hrs Wednesday 1st April 2009

Return to

Voluntary Action Luton, FREEPOST ANG 7874,

Luton, LU1 1BR