

# Voluntary Matters

Issue Number 88  
December 08



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



Voluntary and Community Sector News in Luton

## Festive Greetings



The Board of Trustees, and all of the staff of Voluntary Action Luton would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone all the very best for the Festive Season and the New Year. Next newsletter will be back in production in February 2009..



VISION 4CYP has a new website

Read all about current news and opportunities for organisations working with children and young people at [www.voluntaryworks.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryworks.org.uk) and click on the link for "working with children and young people – Luton".

We will be using these pages to advertise all the training, funding and participation opportunities available to those working with children and young people. The website will also be a base for our regular e-newsletters. To join the mailing list to keep up to date contact [christine.king@valuton.org.uk](mailto:christine.king@valuton.org.uk)

### Take Part in Our Training Needs Survey

VISION 4CYP the network of organisations working with children and young people has previously asked you to take part in our survey to tell us what training needs you have within your organisation. Response has been low.

We enclose a print off of the survey in case you prefer to take part using a hard copy, and we would appreciate your response, but the survey is still available online at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=kLY\\_2fyC\\_2fHUfyBE85zxoNcNQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=kLY_2fyC_2fHUfyBE85zxoNcNQ_3d_3d)

For more details contact Christine King on 01582 733418 or email [christine.king@valuton.org.uk](mailto:christine.king@valuton.org.uk)

### Free Training Continues,

For Voluntary / Community Groups Social Enterprises.

New Workshops will be available in the New Year, Book Early to avoid disappointment.

*Continued on page 2*

**Please note**

### HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKS

Good fire practises can reduce the number of accidental home fires, which occur needlessly.

A home fire safety check can help reduce the number of people killed and injured each year through fire.

**Your Organisation Could Earn Up To £1000**

*Continued on page 2*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE .....

Front Page News	1
VAL Projects and other Sector News	2
VAL Staff and LINK Project	3
Children & Young People Notice board and Events	4

## FREE TRAINING

For Voluntary / Community Organisations and Social Enterprise

A number of training workshops are being organised for the New Year around a variety of topics covering specific social enterprise issues, governance and general development areas.

With the Government's agenda on social enterprise activities, along with other agencies, our workshops endeavour to prepare organisations and developing social enterprises to be in a position to bid for service contracts.

**Social Enterprise training for the first part of the year will include-**

- Partnership working
- Quality Assurance
- Commissioning & Contracting
- Bid Writing - Helen Rose

**Governance and Development areas will be:-**

- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Data Protection & Confidentiality
- Project Management
- Employment (Issues)
- Policies & Procedures
  
- Budgeting - Maggie Prowse
- Roles & Responsibilities Jean Myrie
- Raising Money from Trusts - Jean Myrie

To register an interest, please contact Jean Myrie on **01582 733418**, as places are limited.



## HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKS

*Continued from page 1*

Voluntary organisations can gain financial reward by referring people who will benefit from a Home Fire Safety Check.

Volunteers can play a very important role in the delivery of our home fire safety messages.

## CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?

For further details please contact Simon Barker at Bedfordshire and Luton fire Rescue on **01234 351081** or email [simon.barker@bedsfire.com](mailto:simon.barker@bedsfire.com)

**PREVENTING    PROTECTING  
RESPONDING**



## Volunteering Opportunities

*Don't keep your talents to yourself. People who do things for others are happier and you could even develop the skills you need to get the job you've always wanted.*



Do you have some free time?



**Are you interested in supporting adults in vulnerable situations in your community?**

We are looking for friendly, outgoing people to provide practical support/befriending to people with disabilities, learning difficulties and older people.

**If this could be you please contact Iris Beazley at Voluntary Action Luton, Tel: 01582 733418 for an informal chat or email [iris.beazley@valuton.org.uk](mailto:iris.beazley@valuton.org.uk).**

## VAL's Training & Conference Facilities

The Voluntary Resource Centre training and conference facilities are available for hire to groups. Our town centre location gives easy access to parking, Luton Railway Station and buses.

For further info please contact [info@valuton.org.uk](mailto:info@valuton.org.uk). Bookings 9am – 4.30 pm Monday – Friday.

<b>Voluntary Action Luton Members</b>	<b>£12 per hour</b>
<b>Voluntary/Community Groups</b>	<b>£15 per hour</b>
<b>All other users</b>	<b>£30 per hour</b>

Tea, coffee and biscuits and/or lunch can be provided on request at an additional charge. Access for disabled by arrangement. Accommodates up to approximately 30 people.

**If you would like more information or would like to view the facilities, please telephone: 01582 733418 or email: [info@valuton.org.uk](mailto:info@valuton.org.uk)**



## Members of staff at Voluntary Action Luton

### Executive Director

everton.blake@valuton.org.uk

### Finance & Building Services Manager

maggie.prowse@valuton.org.uk

### Luton Assembly

lorna.brown@lutonassembly.org.uk

### Children and Young Peoples' Network Development Officer

christine.king@valuton.org.uk

### Volunteer Advisor

philip.brown@valuton.org.uk

### Infrastructure Development & Training Officer

jean.myrie@valuton.org.uk

### Bedfordshire Links

charlotte.bonser@valuton.org.uk

marian.courtney@valuton.org.uk

nikki.dalrymple@valuton.org.uk

iris.beazley@valuton.org.uk

### Senior Admin Officer

sue.lovegrove@valuton.org.uk

### Admin

farrah.yaqub@valuton.org.uk

daniel.sakaldip@valuton.org.uk

### Caretaker/Cleaner

david.bailey@valuton.org.uk



## Do You Need A Central Luton Location?

### We have offices available in the Voluntary Resource Centre

- Rent includes reception, services and office furniture
- Central Location, shared car parking, easy access to buses and trains
- For local voluntary and community organisations only.

For details contact: Maggie Prowse on

Tel: 01582 733418 or Email:

[maggie.prowse@valuton.org.uk](mailto:maggie.prowse@valuton.org.uk)



## New Staff Join THE LINK Team

We are delighted to announce the appointment of two new staff members to the LINK Support Team who started with us on 8 December 08, they are :

### Marian Courtney – Bedfordshire LINK Support Officer

*"Part of my previous role as Outreach Co-ordinator for an educational establishment was the setting up, running and monitoring of a variety of educational programmes/training in the local community."*

I have a keen interest in health and social care and am excited about the new Bedfordshire LINK project and am looking forward to working with the VAL team and all those involved in Bedfordshire LINK."

### Nikki Dalrymple - Bedfordshire LINK Marketing & Membership Administrator

"As Communications Officer for a County Council waste management contract, my previous role was to promote recycling & waste minimisation throughout Surrey, to engage with the community and support District&Borough Councils in their drive to divert waste from landfill."

"I look forward to using my marketing experience to help the LINK team move the project forward and increase membership. I'm enjoying the dynamics of working with the VAL and LINK teams and would like to thank everyone for their support in helping me settle into this new role."

## PROGRESS WITH ELECTION TO THE LINK BOARD

Profiles of candidates and ballot papers have been sent out to the full LINK Membership which currently stands at over fifty members.

The Board will be appointed by mid-January 2009.

There is still one vacancy for group representation from Central Bedfordshire (mid and south Bedfordshire). If you or a group in your network is interested in this role on the Board, please contact a member of the LINK Support Team.

## HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE ISSUE LOG

Issues currently logged with the Host organisation :-

- Mount Vernon Cancer Network – the future of services for cancer patients
- Community Nursing – South Bedfordshire
- Autism in Adults – provision for Bedfordshire
- Carers of adults with complex health needs, particularly young people who have moved from children's services to adult services in Bedfordshire
- Infection Control in Hospitals
- Wheelchair Services – long waiting list and problems with maintenance & repairs of chairs

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO LET US KNOW ABOUT ANY HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE ISSUES/TRENDS THAT CONCERN YOU.** This information will be

passed to the LINK Board to consider when producing the Bedfordshire LINK work programme.



The one Children’s workforce framework above is a framework, which describes what a reformed workforce looks like at local level. It identifies the characteristics of a fragmented and a reformed workforce within each arc. There is an on-line tool, which aims to help Children’s Trusts go from good to world-class

**What is this tool and what is it for?**

This online tool is to help every Children’s Trust establish the progress they have made in developing one children’s workforce — a workforce that is reformed and integrated and making the best contribution possible to local Every Child Matters outcomes and the Children and Young People’s Plan.

It begins by providing a One Children’s Workforce framework ‘the rainbow’ to assess and plan against. It provides an opportunity for children’s trusts and their partners to consider the breadth and depth of assessment they should undertake that will provide the maximum possible insight.

**How does it work?**

This assessment can take place through applying a number of tactics, including simple questionnaires, short one-hour focus groups or larger workshops looking at existing children’s services working practices in more detail.

Once completed the tool will help bring evidence together that will enable Trusts to compare where they are and where they would like to be. It then goes on to provide support in planning what you would need to do next to achieve this target end state, as well as signposting trusts to various areas of potential support.

**Not from a Children’s Trust?**

If you aren’t from a children’s trust, the framework will still help you. Although during this trial stage only children’s trusts, or those they have invited to take part, can login or use the tool, you can still walkthrough it and see how it will work.

**When?**

The tool is being trialled with children’s trusts (through their nominated lead) between October and December 2008. The Vison4 C & YP Network Development Officer is liaising with the Trust to discuss involvement of the sector in the assessment process.

**To walk through the assessment tool visit:**

[www.onechildrensworkforce.cwdcouncil.org.uk](http://www.onechildrensworkforce.cwdcouncil.org.uk)

**Luton Assembly** Restructuring event  
9<sup>th</sup> December 08  
**New structure ratified ‘in principle’**

40 participants attended this event, all eager to have their say regarding the existing and proposed new Luton Assembly structure

The day started with the usual Assembly business and in particular some major achievements; attainment of the Local Area Agreement volunteering reward target, development of the Children and Young People’s Network and the completion of the Myplace bid.

The remainder of the day was given over to the restructuring. Three presentations outlined the present and proposed new structure and an example of the working thematic subgroup. Hazel Simmons, Leader of the Council told the participants the benefit and impact of the Luton Assembly within the Local Strategic Partnership.

Once the presentations were over there was a lively question and answer session, with participants seeking to understand the present and new structure. One of the major areas of concern was the amount of meetings representatives attend as an Assembly Committee member. The high number effectively deterring those who are keen to become involved at the strategic level.

The workshop sessions were equally lively and some interesting and useful key points were fed back at the end of the session; communication, funding and expenses were the recurring themes.

Yes, the new structure was ratified ‘in principle’ but there needs to be further work, taking into account all of the comments made on the day. The Assembly Committee will set up a small task and finish group to finalise the new structure, which is to be complete by March 09.

We will of course let you all have an opportunity to see the new structure in a future edition of this Newsletter, which will be followed by the announcement of the new style committee elections.

**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 3rd February  
1st April, 4th June, 3rd August, 5th October,  
2nd December  
Please don’t forget to let us know if your contact details change.  
Please send changes to:  
[sue.lovegrove@valuton.org.uk](mailto:sue.lovegrove@valuton.org.uk)

**Voluntary Matters is printed and published by Voluntary Action Luton.**

Readers are welcome to use extracts within their own organisation provided its source and Voluntary Matters is credited. Contributions are welcomed.

Please send copy to Sue Lovegrove, at VAL  
15 New Bedford Road, Luton, LU1 1SA

Registered Charity No: 1059287 - Registered Company No: 3275961

Every care is taken to provide accurate information. VAL accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions in, or complaints arising from, items in this publication.