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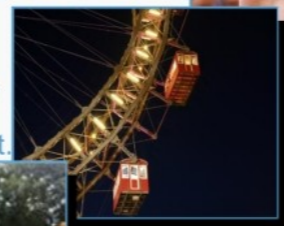
**TWITTER:- twitter.com/**  
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**ParkFest! 4 A.V.S** August 27, 2011  
 12 - 7PM



**ParkFest! 4 A.V.S**

ParkFest! 4 A.V.S is a large, free, non-corporate music and arts festival, intended as a celebration of what Sundon Park has to offer, we welcome involvement from everyone to provide a family event for the entire community; activities to include a child's play area, fun fair, extreme sports arena, stalls, exhibitions and marquees as well as a main stage and DJ tent.



The A.V.S Project provides a holistic package of emotional and practical support to men & women who are dealing with domestic violence, sexual abuse and rape; whether that is something that's happening now or has happened in the past, providing immediate and free one to one counselling for individuals, in safe and secure surroundings.

**27TH AUGUST 2011**  
**12 - 7 PM**  
**VENUE:**  
**LEAGRAVE COMMON**  
**SUNDON PARK**  
**LUTON.**  
**LU3 3BL.**



**ParkFest! 4 AVS "a Party with a Purpose".**

**Learning to Engage**

A new initiative to encourage more employees to take up Aspergers Syndrome, Dyslexia, Autism and Downs Syndrome awareness training is now available to all volunteers in Luton. Award winning Signs4Life are showcasing this local initiative to help staff to communicate and engage with their colleagues, service users and volunteers who may have learning disabilities.

Signs4Life also offer deaf, disability and visual impairment awareness workshops.

"You never know when you will come into contact with a client, a colleague or member of the public who is autistic, deaf or visually impaired. We are working with organisations as varied as The British Red Cross, Mencap, Barnardo's and Age Concern. Each of our workshops help you comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and Equality Acts 2010 and encourage a 'can do' approach to the 12 million people in the UK who have a physical, sensory or learning disability," explains Ms Fozia Parveen, Signs4Life managing director. Fozia has a younger sister Aneesa, 9 who was born hearing impaired which encouraged Fozia to learn sign language.

Fozia is a qualified optometrist and was recently nominated as Oxfam's 100 most inspiring women of 2011 as part of their International Women's Day centenary celebration. She was also chosen to be featured in the book 'Everywoman's Modern Muse' showcasing 100 businesswomen chosen nationally to inspire and mentor the next generation of women.

If you would like further information about the Signs4Life volunteer courses please get in touch with Fozia on 07964 019 764 or visit our interactive website [www.signs4life.org.uk](http://www.signs4life.org.uk)

# Voluntary



**Issue 103**  
 July 2011

## Matters

**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)**

**Bedfordshire & Luton**  
**COMPACT**



The Compact is for all Voluntary Organisations and Community Groups. It outlines the relationship between the public sector and the voluntary and community sector, allowing them to work together more effectively to strengthen communities and improve people's lives. To get your FREE copy, go to: [www.bedsandlutoncompact.org.uk](http://www.bedsandlutoncompact.org.uk). Or call in to Voluntary Action Luton offices and pick up your FREE copy.

**community** **Community Awards for**  
**Luton 2011**

Please complete the nomination form and return to Mostaque Koyes, Barham Group Ltd, Unit A Park Avenue Estate, Sundon Park, Luton LU3 3BP Please access forms at [www.communityluton.co.uk/award\\_nomination.html](http://www.communityluton.co.uk/award_nomination.html).

**Funding Advice and Training**



Bedfordshire and Luton 2011- 12 Funding Advice & Training

- ◇ Identifying funding sources
- ◇ Making good funding applications.
- ◇ Meeting funder and commissioner requirements.

For more information visit: [www.voluntaryworks.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryworks.org.uk)



**FREE IT Health Check**

For Voluntary and Community Organisations in Bedfordshire and Luton. For more information visit: [www.voluntaryworks.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryworks.org.uk)

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**PLEASE NOTE:**  
**Newsletter Copy Dates**

If you would like an event or news items included in our Newsletter, please provide information to us by the Closing date for October edition is:- **Friday 23rd September**

Please email to :- [sue.lovegrove@valuton.org.uk](mailto:sue.lovegrove@valuton.org.uk)  
 Or Tel: 01582 733418

Welcome to our funding updates, a regular snapshot of the funding market to-date. Do not forget that at VAL, you can access a whole lot more funding information, one to one practical advice and guidance in completing your funding applications and expert knowledge around your organisational and project development needs. Why not call and make an appointment to see me! Meanwhile, here is a taste of the funding market.

**The Big Society Investment Fund**

It was announced in June 2011 that the Big Society Bank, which will be partly-funded with dormant account money, looks set to be delayed till next year while the government tries to get state aid approval from the European Commission to set it up. And the good news! BIG will support around five social investment projects with a £5m pot of dormant account fund money while the Big Society Bank awaits approval from the European Commission.

Through the Big Society Investment Fund, BIG are looking to support social investment proposals that will enable intermediary organisations to provide better support to organisations that improve the lives of those in need; create a stronger and more dynamic social investment market that is better equipped to lever funds from other sources; increase knowledge and learning about effective approaches that achieve a financial return.

**BIG are interested in proposals that will:**

- ◇ develop the investor market, through supporting the creation of appropriate social investment vehicles
- ◇ tackle gaps in the supply of capital to the social sector, such as supporting high growth ventures, smaller local organisations and initiatives to improve opportunities for young people
- ◇ support financial innovation, so that social sector organisations can be rewarded for their performance in delivering valued social outcomes
- ◇ create better connections between social entrepreneurs and sources of capital, so they can grow their ventures

Below is a taster of some grants available. To see more information on funding, please go to our website on:

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

- ◇ develop intermediaries, so they can operate more effectively between sources of capital and those in need and add to the flow of investment and skills to the social sector.

The minimum you can apply for is £500,000. BIG haven't set a maximum but are expecting to support around five proposals. To find out more about the Big Society Bank and dormant bank accounts, please visit <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/big-society-bank>; and the BIG website at [http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_big\\_society\\_investment\\_fund.htm?regioncode=uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_big_society_investment_fund.htm?regioncode=uk)

Back in Luton and Bedfordshire, the hottest update is probably the Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC) 2011-12 funding round. This is a national fund made available through the Skills Funding Agency (The Agency). Once again the Learning Partnership has been asked to manage the allocation of funding made available for Bedfordshire and Luton for the period 1st August 2011 to 31st July 2012.

According to the Agency NLDC Guidance 2010/11 the purpose of the NLDC fund is to: "Support local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to develop their capacity to deliver learning opportunities for residents of disadvantaged neighbourhoods" This will be achieved by improving the quality of the learning provider base, including the development of Third Sector organisations; and the delivery of learning through neighbourhood, civil renewal and active citizenship skills and knowledge.

Individual projects can apply for up to a maximum of **£8,000** for revenue projects only. There is no minimum amount. Organisations can only submit one tender as a lead body but can be part of other applications in a partner capacity. For further information please contact The Learning Partnership directly on 01234 851074 / 840758 for **Vanda Bailey or Caroline Wilkins**. You can also email [vbailey@learningpartnership.co.uk](mailto:vbailey@learningpartnership.co.uk) and [cwilkins@learningpartnership.co.uk](mailto:cwilkins@learningpartnership.co.uk)

Funder/ Grant Programme	Grant Description	Deadline	Contacts
The Triangle Trust / 1949 Fund Opens	Grants are normally in the range of £1,000 and £10,000 for charity organisations to support projects that support; carers; community arts and education; disability; older people; poverty; integration and rehabilitation.	12th August	<a href="http://thetriangletrust1949fund.org.uk/index.htm#Service_Provided">http://thetriangletrust1949fund.org.uk/index.htm#Service_Provided</a>
EDF Energy's Green Fund (England, Scotland & Wales)	The Fund offers grants of up to £30,000 to help cover the cost of renewable energy technology that can be used to produce green energy from the sun, wind, water, wood and other renewable sources.	31st August	<a href="http://www.edfenergy.com/sustainability/our-sustainability-challenge/climate-change/green-fund.shtml">http://www.edfenergy.com/sustainability/our-sustainability-challenge/climate-change/green-fund.shtml</a>
St Stephen's Green Trust / Survivors Of Abuse In Irish Religious	a minimum grant of €15,000 to address the support needs of the most marginalised survivors of abuse in Irish religious-run institutions by implementing the recommendations contained within the Mary Higgins Report.	23rd September	<a href="http://www.ssgt.ie/survivors_of_abuse_grant_scheme.html">http://www.ssgt.ie/survivors_of_abuse_grant_scheme.html</a>



The Volunteer Centre is accredited by Volunteering England and is a core project of Voluntary Action Luton.

**Dates for your Diary!**

**Volunteer Co-ordinators' Network Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in early October. If you are interested in attending, please contact Phil or Iris.

The **Make a Difference Day 2011** Campaign provides thousands of people across the country with the opportunity to try out volunteering. This year Make a Difference Day will highlight how volunteers can tackle loneliness and isolation.

It is still in the planning stage, but we are hoping, in liaison with University of Bedfordshire, to run a programme of musical activities throughout the week commencing 24 October.

Opportunities to volunteer for this Event will be uploaded onto [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk) in due course.

**Volunteer Taster Sessions**

A pilot taster session was held on 18 May from 10.30am—2.30pm around the theme of 'Health and Disability'.

Seven organisations were represented: Keech Hospice Care, Luton & Dunstable Hospital, Headway, Bedfordshire Football Association, Advocacy Alliance, the University of Bedfordshire and the Volunteer Centre. The Event was fairly well attended and each organisation signed up new volunteers. However, there is room for improvement.

We are hoping to run further sessions in the future around different themes, eg Advice, Support and Information, so if your organisation uses volunteers and would like to take part please contact Iris or Phil.

For more information about any of the above or about volunteering in general please contact: Phil Brown [philip.brown@valuton.org.uk](mailto:philip.brown@valuton.org.uk) or Iris Beazley [iris.beazley@valuton.org.uk](mailto:iris.beazley@valuton.org.uk)  
Tel: 01852 733418



European Year of Volunteering 2011 is now underway, for more information visit Volunteering England website <http://www.volunteering.org.uk>

**Volunteers' Fair 2 June 2011**

*It was a warm and sunny day and the people came! We held a similar event last year and are hoping to make the Volunteers' Fair an annual event.*



Like last year, the Fair was held in St George's Square. It gave local non-profit organisations the opportunity to recruit volunteers and to showcase their activities to the general public.

22 organisations, including the Luton & Dunstable Hospital, Keech Hospice, Luton Borough Council, Samaritans, Oxfam and English Heritage, spent the day talking to people and demonstrating some of their volunteering opportunities. Bedfordshire Football Association gave young people the opportunity to practice their football skills and 9Red Presents displayed photos of the Carnival in their marquee and signed up volunteers across their various projects.

Don't worry if you missed the Fair, you can still volunteer by visiting our website - see below.

Photos of the Event can be viewed on [www.valuton.org.uk](http://www.valuton.org.uk)

Our grateful thanks for the support given by the University of Bedfordshire, Kelvin Hopkins, MP and Luton Subway.

**Volunteer Centre - Drop-in Sessions**

**15 New Bedford Road, Luton, LU1 1SA**

**Monday: 2pm - 4pm**

**Tues-Thurs: 10am - 12.30pm / 2pm - 4pm**

**Fridays: 10am - 12.30pm**

If you have access to the Internet you can apply online for locally available volunteering opportunities by visiting [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk)



## BEDFORDSHIRE LINK Update - "Moving towards HealthWatch"

**In October 2012, once the Social Care Bill is passed, a new voice will be created for the public in the area of health and social care; this new structure will be called HealthWatch. Local Involvement Networks will be abolished to give way to what is felt to be a stronger and more influential way for people to have a say in their health and social care provision.**

Bedfordshire LINK along with other LINKs in the country are now in a transition year preparing for HealthWatch. In June 2011 the LINK in conjunction with Central Bedfordshire Council organised a Workshop for the membership to learn more about the aims of HealthWatch and how they can be a part of developing what their Local HealthWatch looks like. The key speaker for the event

was Claire Ogley from Enable East who is leading this regionally for the Department of Health. We are currently evaluating feedback from the event and a report will be published of the key messages raised at the event.

In the autumn, the LINK, Council and host organisation, VAL, are planning a stakeholder conference to involve and inform the community and voluntary sector and other stakeholders about HealthWatch.



*Picture of Ray Gunning right with Charlotte Bonser left and some of the LINKs membership team*

Bedfordshire LINK has also submitted an application to the Department of Health to become a HealthWatch Pathfinder Project; this would involve piloting the LINK project with a view to it being rolled out as a model of good practice across the country. The Department of Health has received 75 proposals for LINK organisations, and we are currently waiting to hear the outcome by the end of July.

So what is HealthWatch? **HealthWatch will be the Independent Consumer Champion for Health and Social Care.**

### **It has three key elements:**

**Decision-making through representation on Health & Well Being Boards**

**Signposting people to appropriate help**

**Access complaints advocacy services by 2013 (a role to be commissioned by each Local Authority)**

**HealthWatch will retain all existing functions of LINK but include provide information to support patient choice and will be involved in the decision-making structure of the Health & Well Being Boards**

We will keep you informed as we progress with this important area of involving people in their health and social care. If, in the meantime, you have any questions, please contact the **LINK host support team on 01582 733418.**

### Members of staff at Voluntary Action Luton

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Salma Chowdhury

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Lemar Walters

#### Admin

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#### Future Jobs Fund

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#### Future Jobs Fund temporary staff

Laura-Jane Joy / Reception /Admin **leaves 22 July**



### Farewell to Laura-Jane Joy

Laura Jane, who has worked on a FJF project as and receptionist/ admin worker for the last six months, will sadly be leaving us on Friday 22nd July. This is the last of our FJF funder workers within VAL, but the FJF project is

running till the end of September this year.

We all at VAL wish her the very best in her new ventures and hope that her time here at VAL she has learnt some key skills to help her in the future. GOOD LUCK

### Celebrating Success – ESF Achiever of the Year

#### Fantastic News –

**Sharfin Khan** was recently (May 2011) presented with an Adult Learners' Week Award Certificate and £200 worth of learning vouchers in



recognition of his outstanding achievements. The event was sponsored by The Learning Partnership and took place at Putteridge Bury Conference Centre. Supported through ESF Luton Borough Council, Sharfin secured employment with Noah Enterprise after a long period of unemployment. Sharfin is a quick learner and after gaining sound knowledge and experience he was soon promoted to a more senior role with added responsibility and supervision of junior staff members and volunteers. Congratulations Sharfin - enjoy the learning vouchers - and keep up the good work!

#### Older Persons' Partnership Board

Voluntary Action Luton is represented on Luton Borough Council's Older Person's Partnership Board. The Council is currently reviewing how they run the Board with a view to ensuring that it becomes an important part of the way in which LBC and health commissioners seek the views and involvement of older people. These changes are to be discussed at a meeting to be held this month.

Through this Newsletter we will keep our members informed of forthcoming items of interest and consultations. For further information please contact [iris.beazley@valuton.org.uk](mailto:iris.beazley@valuton.org.uk)

**The Joint Commissioning Strategy for People with Dementia** sets out Luton's vision for the development and commissioning of services and support for people with Dementia and their carers. The Strategy can be downloaded from [www.luton.gov.uk](http://www.luton.gov.uk) under 'current consultations'.

Many events targeted at small groups of people will be held during July and August. Two large consultation workshops, to gain the views of professional working with people with Dementia and their Carers and also the views of the general public and independent organisations are planned for September. If you wish to attend one of these workshops, please contact Kim Radford on 01582 547706 or email [kimberly.radford@luton.gov.uk](mailto:kimberly.radford@luton.gov.uk) to secure a place.

## National VCS Champion – Toby Blume speaks to Luton Assembly Event ‘Your Future, Your Say’



Toby Blume, Chief Executive of Urban Forum, an experienced advocate of the Voluntary and Community Sector at both local and national government level, was the guest speaker at Luton Assembly’s event ‘Your Future, Your Say’ held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at Dallow Learning Community Centre, where about fifty people from forty two different organisations were present.

Toby spoke about how Localism, Big Society and the Community is and will be affecting local communities and its implications for Voluntary and Community Sector organisations. His entertaining imagery, coupled with his plain speaking approach, enabled his extensive insight to help the audience focus on the recent government initiatives, ways we, the VCS need to seize the moment and fill the gaps which have been created, before bigger businesses jump in to fill them. He highlighted the need to find new and imaginative ways of working in creative collaboration, which would not be easy but needed to be done to ensure the VCS were able to continue the battle against inequalities and support those within our communities. Toby concluded with a vision of hope, that ‘the future is ours to make’.



Toby Blume, Urban Forum Chief Executive, with Everton Blake, Voluntary Action Luton Executive Director, at the Luton Assembly Event

Assembly Representatives also gave delegates a highlighted summary of the many achievements of Luton Assembly and the work being undertaken within the themed areas of Environment and Economy, Health and Wellbeing, Children and Young People and Stronger and Safer Communities. The Assembly Business Plan for 2011/2012 was also ratified at the event.

This was followed by workshops, where delegates had the opportunity to help shape the vision of Luton Assembly and explore ways in which the Assembly could develop its role to meet the changing demands of the sector and the importance of effective two-way communication within this process. The feedback showed that people were in agreement of the need for a united and effective Voluntary and Community Sector within the town, to enable them to work together in this time of austerity and greater demands on limited funding.

For further information about the event, copies of presentations and information on Luton Assembly, please go to the web site at [www.lutonassembly.org.uk](http://www.lutonassembly.org.uk).

Your Assembly Representatives		
Luton Assembly	Representative	Representative's Email
Children & Young People Committee	Robert Simpson Linda Farrell John Archer Moazzem Hussain	<a href="mailto:rob.simpson@kuoshu.co.uk">rob.simpson@kuoshu.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:snapart@hotmail.com">snapart@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:john@lamp.uk.net">john@lamp.uk.net</a> <a href="mailto:moazzemhussain@hotmail.co.uk">moazzemhussain@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Environment & Economy Committee	David Oakley-Hill Vic Cowell Geoff Bunce Colin Hall Hasan Akon Jim Thakoordin Sarah Leeming Alexe Rose	<a href="mailto:david@dark.greenisp.org">david@dark.greenisp.org</a> <a href="mailto:yvcowell@msn.com">yvcowell@msn.com</a> <a href="mailto:geoff.bunce@groundwork.org.uk">geoff.bunce@groundwork.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:hall.colin@gmail.com">hall.colin@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:saveplanetuk@yahoo.co.uk">saveplanetuk@yahoo.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:dthakoordin@sky.com">dthakoordin@sky.com</a> <a href="mailto:sarah.leeming@sustrans.org.uk">sarah.leeming@sustrans.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:alexe.rose@greensandtrust.org">alexe.rose@greensandtrust.org</a>
Health & Well-being Committee	Masood Akhtar Noelette Hanley Heena Yadav Sarah Watson-Jones	<a href="mailto:masoodakhtar@hotmail.co.uk">masoodakhtar@hotmail.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:noelette@lutonirishforum.org">noelette@lutonirishforum.org</a> <a href="mailto:heena.hadav@advocacyalliance.co.uk">heena.hadav@advocacyalliance.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:sarahw-j@bedsrcc.org.uk">sarahw-j@bedsrcc.org.uk</a>
Stronger & Safer Communities Committee	Jenny Spouge Peter Adams Sarita Jain Anwar Haque Lawrence Fagbayi Anthony Jules	<a href="mailto:jennyspouge@hotmail.com">jennyspouge@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:pgmadams@gmail.com">pgmadams@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:sarita@lawc.org.uk">sarita@lawc.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:anwarhaque2004@yahoo.co.uk">anwarhaque2004@yahoo.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:thegpministries@hotmail.com">thegpministries@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:anthonyjules@btinternet.com">anthonyjules@btinternet.com</a>

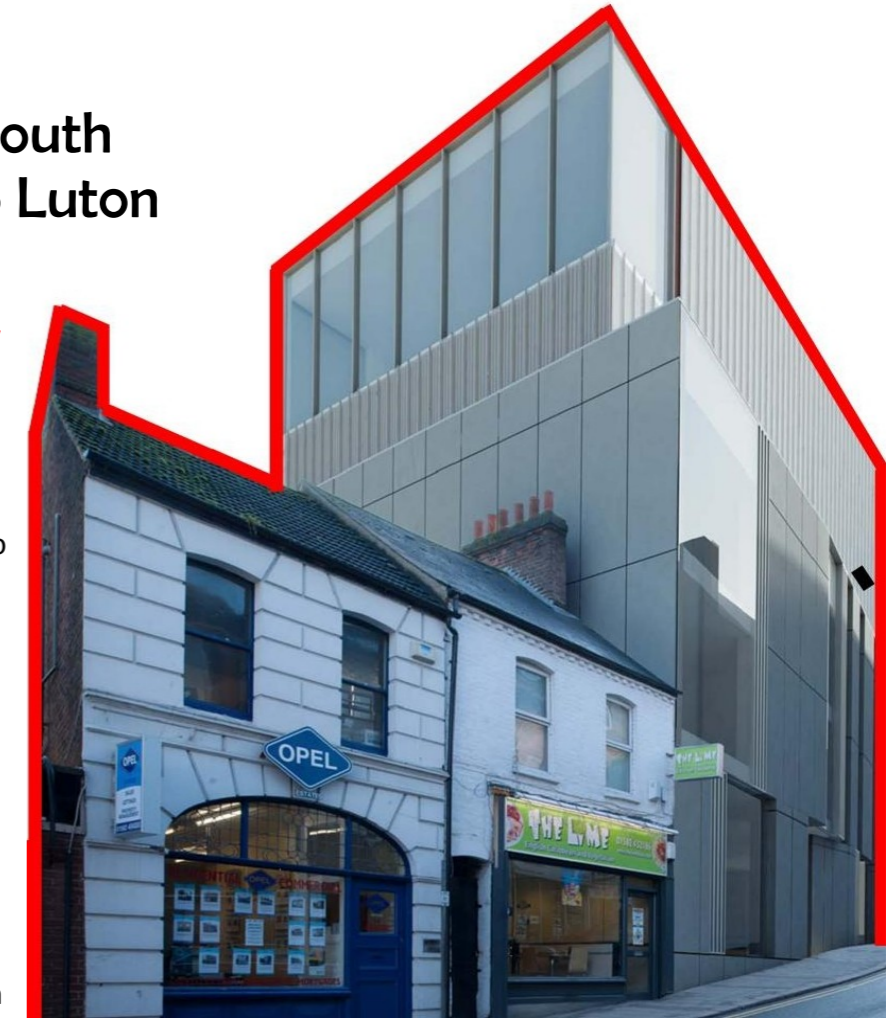
# TOKKO

## A brand new £4.5m youth centre coming soon to Luton

### Branding for a brand new building facility

The TOKKO Youth Board (TYB) recently ran a competition to design the new logo which will represent the organisation both locally and nationally. The Youth Board, in collaboration with the architects believed that a design which was loosely based on the idea of a ‘bar-code’ would be a fun idea to use, as many people associate this with the buildings exterior fins. The winning design was produced by Leon Gibbs, Aaron Fulton-Brown, Scott Fulton-Brown and Claire Louise for their joint design.

The logo will be used both on the side of the building and as the companies logo for it’s brand identity.



### Contact details for TOKKO

Phone: 01582 733418  
E-mail: [myplace.admin@luton.org.uk](mailto:myplace.admin@luton.org.uk)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/#1/tokkoyouthluton](https://twitter.com/#1/tokkoyouthluton)  
Facebook: TOKKO Youth Centre

## LAMP bowled over by TOKKO

The TOKKO Youth Board (recently chose LAMP (Luton Accommodation Move-on Project) as their beneficiary and decided to run a fundraising event in aid of the charity. The TYB organised and ran the fundraising event in partnership with Namco in the form of a bowling evening, which was a great success, raising £375 for the charity. Everyone who took part left with a smile and future partnership working with the youth of Lamp will be developed.

