

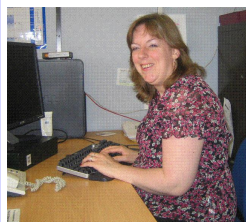
Voluntary Matters

Issue Number 91
June 09



Voluntary and Community Sector News in Luton

Farewell to Christine



After a year of working with the VISION 4CYP Network of organisations working with children and young people in Luton, and the four previous years working at Voluntary Action Luton in roles with the Community Funding Initiative and the Patient and Public Involvement Forums, Christine

King, who you may have previously known as Christine Blackford will be leaving VAL on the 12th June to take up other employment.

Christine said "it is with sadness that I leave Voluntary Action Luton where I have enjoyed working with a great number of voluntary sector organisations and seen many of you develop your services to the community of Luton. My new role at a local High School, although very different, will offer me the opportunity of working term-time-only and spend more time with my young family".

The VISION 4CYP Network will continue to support the voluntary sector working with children and young people, and will remain a valuable opportunity to access news, funding, training and commissioning opportunities.

A part-time worker will be recruited to support the network, however in the interim if you would like to become part of the network, would like to use the network to spread the word about activities or opportunities within your organisation, or you would be interested in finding out more about the role of Support Officer for the network please contact Lorna Brown on **01582 733418** or email lorna.brown@valuton.org.uk



Lutons' Families Join Record Breaking

Well over 700 people in Luton helped to set a new Guinness World Record for the World's Largest Picnic in Multiple Venues as part of National Family Week. There were in total a 115 picnics across the country, where over 11 000 people came together with family and friends to enjoy a picnic together.

National Family Week are still officially verifying the final count.

The weather was kind and everyone seemed to enjoy their time

Everyone was thoroughly entertained by St Matthews Primary School Choir singing

songs from their recent Pop Connections CD, Galaxy Gym Club sprang into action on their 15 metre inflatable display mat and Luton Cultural Services Trust had the whole crowd bouncing about to 'Simon Says'

Howard Mc Calla from BBC Three Counties Radio did a brilliant job of comparing the event and keeping a live link to Three Counties Radio throughout the Picnic. Participants were delighted to have Kevin Crompton, Chief Executive of Luton Borough Council join us for the picnic and he helped by judging the Banner Competition which was won by St Matthews Primary School, with The Meads and Tennyson Road Primary coming in a very close second and third place.

The organisers would like to extend a big thank you to the team of wonderful people from across Lutons' Children's Trust including Luton Borough Council, Voluntary Action Luton and Luton Cultural Services Trust who came together to enable this event to happen in partnership with National Family Week.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

VAL Projects and other Sector News	2
VAL Staff and News	3
Luton Assembly	4
Bedfordshire LINK	5
Children & Young People	6
Funding	7
Notice board and Events	8

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 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

STOP PRESS! TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Moving from Grants to Contracts.

Is your organisation ready for the new era of funding?
Funding from public sector agencies is changing
There is a progressive move away from grants towards contracts

Considering Incorporation?

This introductory level training is intended for management committee/board members and relevant staff in established voluntary organisations, who are considering whether to become incorporated by guarantee or a charitable incorporated organisation.

Trainer Sandy Adirondack
Wednesday 24th June 2009 - Bedford

Marketing

Often regarded as too expensive and used as another word for publicity, marketing is much misunderstood. It is an activity that puts service users first in identifying and meeting needs, and at the heart of all organisations. Look at how you can target and your effort for maximum effect and stand out from the rest.

Trainer Rizwana Zaman
Thursday 25th June 2009 – Leighton Buzzard

Charities Tax and VAT

Although Tax and VAT are now both dealt with by HM Revenue and Customs, there are still differences in the charitable exemptions available, so it is important that you know how your charity could be affected from both a Tax and a VT point of view.

Trainer Neil Warren and Paul Southward (Luton)
Wednesday 15th July 2009

Measuring Impact through Outcomes

While impact may take several years to achieve, planned and unanticipated outcomes occur all the time. By measuring impact through outcomes, you will be able to develop a more realistic picture of what has been achieved, and how such change contributes to, or detracts from, the process of achieving impact.

Trainer Dr Aileen McKenzie
Wednesday 9th September 2009 - Luton

For information on how to book on any of the workshops below, please contact :

Jan Warner - 01234 354366 for Bedford W/shops
Kim Mead - 01525 850559 for Leighton Buzzard W/shops
Jean Myrie - 01582 733418 for Luton W/shops



Arts Awards (UK)

The Wellcome Trust is inviting organisations and individuals to apply for funding through its Arts Awards. The Arts Awards support projects that engage the public with biomedical science through the arts including dance, drama, performance arts, visual arts, music, film, craft, photography, creative writing or digital media. Applications are invited for projects up to £30,000.

The aim of the awards is to support arts projects that reach new audiences which may not traditionally be interested in science and provide new ways of thinking about the social, cultural and ethical issues around contemporary science.

The scheme is open to a wide range of people including, among others, artists, scientists, curators, filmmakers, writers, producers, directors, academics, science communicators, teachers, arts workers and education officers. For small to medium-sized projects (up to and including £30,000) upcoming deadlines are:

17 July 2009
16 October 2009
29 January 2010.

For large projects (over £30, 000) the next deadline is: January 2010.

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Public-engagement/Grants/Arts-Awards/index.htm>

This information has been supplied courtesy of LBC's Regeneration Dept.

For further information on funding. Visit LBC link here <http://www.luton.gov.uk/Media%20Library/Word/Environment%20%26%20regeneration/Regeneration/May.doc>

On the 10th, 21st and 22nd of May your new Luton Assembly elected. We were looking for 28 representatives during the recent Assembly elections and were fortunate enough to be able to select 28 who had put their names forward. They have not yet officially started their work on the Luton Assembly, but all were keen and eager to start representing Luton's voluntary and community sector as soon as possible. The new representatives and their theme areas are listed in the box below:

Children & Young People

Andy Calvert
Linda Farrell
Amwar Haque
Alex Zihute
Robert Simpson
Nicki Summerson
Kaldeep Budwal
Astrid Bannister
Bob Pettingale
Elizabeth Gillespie

Environment & Economy

David Oakley-Hill
Janet Montgomery
Geoff Bunce
Jim Thakoordin
Philip Gallagher

Health & Wellbeing

Neville White
Nolette Hanley
Ron Greenham
Rumi Chowdhury
Gordon Andrews
Masood Akhtar
Heena Yadav

Equalities & Inclusion & Cohesion

Wendy Gray

Housing Forum

Linda Mitchell

Stronger & Safer

Rosie Robins
Jenny Spouge
Niall Spencer
Peter Adams



All LINKs around the country celebrated their first birthday on 1 April 2009.

In Bedfordshire, part of our celebration was the Partnership event held on 7 April 09 at the Rufus Centre, hosted by the outgoing Local Authority, Bedfordshire County Council but showcasing the work of the Bedfordshire LINK. The Chair of the Board, Arthur Dennis

and the Operations Manager, Charlotte Bonser were part of the team involved in planning the event.

The event was very successful and attracted over 100 people from the LINK membership, voluntary and community groups, statutory organisations both health and social care and interested individuals.

The event took the form of a market stall event with presentations from the LINK Board members and Host, interviews with organisations and individuals about why they joined the LINK and various opportunities for participants to discuss partnership working and to simply network. The final activity was to produce a paper link/chain with each organisation and individual stating who they were and what they could offer to the LINK; in effect their commitment to making the Bedfordshire LINK a success.

Our Marketing and Membership Team member, Nikki is producing a poster of all these comments so that all the commitments by participants are logged and developed some time in the near future. Feedback from the event was so positive that we don't want it to become just a vague memory to participants.

The LINK itself is progressing well; we produced a second glossy newsletter with lots of contribution from the wider LINK membership and newly signed-up organisations. We also send out monthly bulletins and information updates from time to time; most of this is e-mailed to those on e-mail and posted to those not - so it's not too costly.

We have been able to do two pieces of work through the bulletins; getting some feedback for our Standards for Better Health Healthcare commentaries through a questionnaire included in the bulletin and we turned our April bulletin into a form asking for members to join specific working groups, we have categorized them into six key areas: acute care, primary care, social care, access, mental health and learning disabilities, ambulance services and each core group will be led by a member of the LINK Board team. We have also been talking to the Luton LINK about joint working particularly in terms of any work involving the L&D Hospital.

In preparation for these working groups the Host is sorting out CRB checks for those members wanting to participate in enter and view work items when they arise. I know that there's much debate on this at the moment.

The Board has decided that unless members possess a recent enhanced CRB check that can be verified by the Host Support Team then the appropriate members must go through the checking process in order to participate in

any enter and view activity. Alongside this we are thinking about arranging some training on how to conduct monitoring visits for interested members.



All in all it continues to be a busy and exciting project.

Children & Young People

Children in Need (UK)

Organisations working with disadvantaged young people aged 18 or under are able to apply for funding through the BBC's Children in Need Programme. Funding is available to organisations, (including schools) that work with young people who are suffering from illness, distress, abuse or neglect, are disabled, have behavioural or psychological difficulties and / or are living in poverty or situations of deprivation.

The type of funding available includes both capital and revenue grants. There is no minimum or maximum amount when applying for funds from BBC Children in Need and organisations can apply for up to 100% of project costs. Previous projects funded include Home-Start Kettering Area which received a grant of £15,445 to run two support groups to work with disadvantaged children and their families on a weekly basis during term time and the Barnstaple Poverty Action Group which received a grant of £109,832 to help reduce homelessness and rough sleeping among young people through prevention, information, advice, support and emergency accommodation.

Organisations wishing to apply for funding need to complete the BBC Children in Need online grant application form no paper applications will be accepted. The next application deadline is 15 July 2009.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants/>

'Real Help for Communities' Modernisation Fund

Does your organisation require support to develop its resilience to overcoming the current economical downturn?

Does your organisation have an annual income of between £150k and £750k?

The Government's '**Real Help for Communities' Modernisation Fund** (run by **Capacitybuilders**) can help you through a bursary to overcome the challenges your organisation may face in these difficult times.

To find out if your organisation is eligible visit: www.modernisationfund.org.uk



Luton Law Centre has been providing free, expert independent legal services for 20 years. To celebrate our achievements and say thanks to all our supporters, we will be having an **Anniversary Party** on

Friday 31st July 2009, 1.30pm till late, at the UK Carnival Arts Centre.

We will be mailing out full details of the programme before the end of June, so watch out for that. If you don't get one, and would like to come, please contact us on **01582 482000**, or email admin@lutonlawcentre.org.uk.

Luton All Women's Centre

The Luton All Women's Centre is a centre for women run by women. It is a women only space affording a safe environment for women to meet, be supported and for them to get information, advice and support on a wide range of topics.

Through funding from Luton Borough Council - Supporting People and Parenting Commissioners, Marsh Farm Trust, PCT and Go East we have a number of new projects which we will be presenting at a launch event on the 23rd June.

The projects are:

Marsh Farm Women Support project – to support women by providing 1-1 information and advice and advocacy as well as support groups for those who have/are experiencing domestic abuse

Domestic Abuse Parenting Project – to support mothers by providing a bespoke service by identifying needs and developing referral pathways in order to ensure that they access the right services. Support groups as well as the Freedom Programmes will be delivered through this project.

Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence dedicated service.

A dedicated helpline and 1-1 support for those at risk of or experiencing FM/HBV.

Open House Event of the Luton Carers' Centre

Family Action has been commissioned by Luton Borough Council to establish the Luton Carers' Centre which is based in Voluntary Action Luton. The new staff team are all part-time and hope to meet Carers both in the Centre and also out in community venues and in Carer's homes. We're here to offer emotional support and time to listen for Carers who fulfil a crucial unpaid and often unrecognised role for a family member, friend or neighbour. As staff come into post we will circulate more details. In the meantime please drop in to our Open House Launch on Friday, 12th June at VAL between 12 and 3pm, meet staff, pick up information and enjoy some light refreshment - and sign our visitor's book. We hope to meet as many as possible - whether you are a carer or not, a professional or local resident do drop in. For more information please contact Dorothy Blackhall on **01582 435195**.

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.

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