

# Voluntary Matters

Issue Number 66  
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Voluntary and Community Sector News in Luton



## Festive Greetings

Executive Director - Anne Laing, the trustees and all the staff at Voluntary Action Luton would like to convey Seasons Greetings and best wishes for the New Year to you and your organisation ... Anne

It's the Luton Assembly  
'Oh No it's Not' - Oh Yes it is....



The Christmas Meeting proved to be lots of fun and a great success with a Dick Whittington Panto, for more information see page 4 and Assembly website. [www.lutonassembly.org.uk](http://www.lutonassembly.org.uk)

## Awards for All still has cash on offer

Community projects are being urged to apply for small grants after the National Lottery revealed that there was £40 million left unspent in its Awards for All programme.

Under this initiative small groups can apply for between £500 and £5,000 to enable people in their locality to take part in education, sport, the arts, community, environmental, heritage or health-related activities.

More information can be found at [www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk).

## More Christmas Cash Available

You may be interested to know that a number of fund giving organisations have cash in their bank accounts, so if you have some projects that would like a cash injection - see page 6 for details

## New Big Lottery Funding

### Briefing for helper agencies and funding advisers

In December the Big Lottery are launching a new demand - led programme, 'Reaching Communities'. (see details on Page 5). The programme is open to voluntary and community sector organisations, social enterprises and statutory bodies (including schools) and will be giving grants from £10,000 to £500,000 over a maximum period of five years.

To launch the programme they are holding a number of briefings throughout the region, where helper agencies and funding advisers can obtain more detailed information.

**The Luton Reaching Communities Briefing is on:  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2006 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm at:  
The Hat Factory, 65 - 67 Bute Street,  
Luton, LU1 2EY**

To book a place please contact Miranda McCoy on  
Tel: 01223 449034 or  
Email: [enquiries.ea@biglotteryfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.ea@biglotteryfund.org.uk)  
Website: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

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## Free Training



### Voluntary Action Luton

#### Charity Accounts and SORP 2005 'Things You need to know'

This one day course is aimed at all finance staff in small and medium size charities who are responsible for preparing their organisation's Annual Report and Accounts and want to ensure they comply with the new SORP. It is assumed that those attending will have some understanding of the previous SORP (2000).

The course will examine the changes to charity accounting following the introduction of the SORP. The accounting recommendations of SORP 2005 apply to all charities that prepare their accounts on the accruals basis. In addition, they are recommended as good practice guidelines for all other charities to follow.

The reporting recommendations apply to all registered charities.

**Date:** 10am-3pm Wednesday 15th February 2006

**Trainer:** Peter Fairbairn (Independent Trainer)

**Venue:** VAL: 15 New Bedford Rd Luton

### Marsh Farm Training Communication Skills

Learn to speak with confidence to a group, use body language to your advantage and identify your style of communicating.

**Date:** 10:30am—3:30pm Tue 7th February 2006

**Trainer:** Mike Daligan (Independent Trainer)

**Venue:** MFCDT Community Enterprise Resource Centre The Moakes Luton

### Protecting Vulnerable Adults

For anyone who works with vulnerable people and would like to find out more about how the abuse of adults occurs and what policies you need to have in place to prevent it.

**Date:** 10:00 am—3:30 pm Tues 7th March 2006

**Trainer:** Valerie Murray

**Venue:** MFCDT Community Enterprise Resource Centre The Moakes Luton

**For booking, further details of all training or to request a training program, please contact Jennifer Saunders or see our website - [www.valuton.org.uk](http://www.valuton.org.uk)**

**Jennifer Saunders**  
**Tel: 01582 733418 or Email:**  
**[jennifer.saunders@valuton.org.uk](mailto:jennifer.saunders@valuton.org.uk)**

## News on Voluntary Sector IT



### [www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk)

Mencap is the UK's leading learning disability charity working with people with a learning disability and their families and carers. They can give you confidential information or advice by phone, email or post for free on things like housing, jobs, benefits and local services. **Helpline on 0808 808 1111.**



### [www.pohwer.net/how\\_we\\_can\\_help/independent.html](http://www.pohwer.net/how_we_can_help/independent.html)

#### ICAS - Independent Complaints Advocacy Services

Service provided to support those wishing to make a formal complaint about NHS services.

**Tel: 0845 456 1082**



### [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

#### HLC - Healthy Living Centre

A lottery-funded programme which targets areas and groups that represent the most disadvantaged sectors of the population. Projects include smoking cessation, dietary advice, health screening programmes, and complementary therapy.



### [www.communitymatters.org.uk](http://www.communitymatters.org.uk)

Community Matters is the National Federation for Community Organisations. They currently have 1100 member organisations across the UK and have been supporting community associations and similar organisations since 1945.



### [www.cibfunding.org.uk](http://www.cibfunding.org.uk)

Charities Information Bureau supports voluntary organisations and community groups in funding their work and supporting funding advisors and agencies in giving funding advice.



### [www.community-fund.org.uk](http://www.community-fund.org.uk)

The Community Fund distributes money raised by the Lottery to support charities and voluntary groups aiming to give grants mainly to help meet the needs of those at greatest disadvantage in society, and also to improve the quality of life in the community.



### [www.britishgasenergytrust.org.uk](http://www.britishgasenergytrust.org.uk)

The **British Gas and Scottish Gas Energy Trust** is an independent trust established in September 2004 that aims to help the fight against poverty.

Grants are available to help individuals and families in need to meet arrears of energy charges etc..

Grants are also be made available to fund voluntary sector organisations that provide money advice services and financial education projects.

Details call the trust on **01733 330 732** or website.



### [www.gos.gov.uk](http://www.gos.gov.uk)

This is a new website that covers all the national Government Offices with links to the 9 regional offices, it's very informative and certainly worth a visit.



## Voluntary Action Luton

Voluntary Action Luton (VAL) is an umbrella organisation that supports the growing number of Voluntary and Community Groups in the Luton area (now in excess of 650). The groups form a Community Empowerment Network (CEN) known as Luton Assembly.

Our key role is to raise the sector's profile and gain recognition for the skills and diversity of Voluntary and Community Groups working throughout the area.

VAL provides advice on funding and grant aid; helps groups to set-up; produces a newsletter and a range of other information; and encourages all aspects of volunteering through the Volunteer Bureau.

**If you would like to know more about our work please contact us by Email or by telephone 01582 733418.**

### Executive Director - Anne Laing

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### Community Funding Initiative

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### Luton Assembly

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### Volunteer Centre

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### Volunteer and Business Resource Project

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### Training

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### Caretaker/Cleaner

david.bailey@valuton.org.uk



## VAL's Training & Conference Facilities

The Voluntary Resource Centre training and conference facilities are available for groups to hire. Our town centre location gives easy access to parking, Luton Railway Station and buses. Bookings 9am – 4.30 pm Monday – Friday

**Voluntary Action Luton Members £20 per hour**  
**Voluntary/Community Groups £25 per hour**  
**All other users £30 per hour**

Tea, coffee and biscuits and/or lunch can be provided on request at an additional charge. Access for disabled by arrangement. If you would like more information or would like to view the facilities, please contact:

**Yasmin Akhtar on 01582 733418**



## Big Boost from the Big Lottery Fund

The Big Boost programme is part of the Big Lottery Fund's Young People's Fund aimed at helping more than 12,000 young people gain a grant over a 30 month period.

Grants will range from £250 to £5,000, and are available to applicants in two age bands: 11-16, and 16-25 years old.

The programme aims to encourage social entrepreneurship among young people, particularly with those from disadvantaged backgrounds. For details see:

[www.cover-east.org/interact/documents/word/1396.doc](http://www.cover-east.org/interact/documents/word/1396.doc).



## Homelessness Amongst Ethnic Minorities

The Government has made £3m available through the Ethnic Minorities Innovation Fund. Aimed at voluntary and community groups working in partnership with local authorities, the funding is looking to support innovative projects which reduce homelessness amongst ethnic minority groups. Funding will be available in 2006/7 and 2007/8.

For more information please visit [www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk).

## Voluntary Action Luton Voluntary Resource Centre

15 New Bedford Road, Luton, LU1 1SA Tel: 01582 733418 Fax: 01582 733013

Website: [www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/valuton](http://www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/valuton) E-mail: [info@valuton.org.uk](mailto:info@valuton.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: 1059287 - Registered Company No: 3275961

# Luton Assembly

## Local Area Agreement (LAA) Update

The 2nd draft of Luton's LAA and in particular the Safer and Stronger Community (SSCF) Block Performance Indicators have been submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The performance Indicators submitted most relevant to the Voluntary/community sector of Luton under SSCF are:

- % voluntary and community sector organisations representatives engaged with the Community Empowerment Network, satisfied they can influence decision making by the statutory organisations – Reward
- Number of VCOs receiving project funding above £4000 from a local statutory organisation
- Proportion of public expenditure spent on direct service delivery by the voluntary and community sector
- Number of people engaging in a defined formal volunteering activity, measured by mix of people (ethnicity, where they live – neighbourhoods, with focus on most deprived areas) – Reward
- Number of people reporting satisfaction with local services (broken down by ward, age, ethnic origin, gender) and services.

The ODPM will be providing feedback on the 15<sup>th</sup> December.

## IIC

Bedfordshire and Luton Economic Development Partnership (Bledp) gave an update on Investors In Communities to the Luton Forum. The key points are:

Mapping of provision in the 5 key areas has been commissioned:

- Employability
- Children and Education
- Not in education or training
- Adult skills and Training
- Business support & Social enterprise

If you provide services in any of the 5 areas, and wish to be included in a directory to be forwarded to Bledp please contact Lorna Brown on 01582 733418 or e-mail

[lorna.brown@valuton.org.uk](mailto:lorna.brown@valuton.org.uk)

Bledp will submit the Business Plan to the East of England Development Agency for appraisal and agreement.

A New IIC permanent Board to be set up in January and they will be holding a Stakeholder Event in March 2006.

## Luton Assembly and its Government Office East Support

The Assembly have received support from GO-East Office, via Tracey James. Tracey will be moving on due to a promotion and Lisa Roberts will be her replacement.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Tracey for her support of the Luton assembly and wish her the very best in her new role.

## Assembly Christmas Revue 13<sup>th</sup> December



Thank you to all of those who turned out to this unusual Assembly event. The revue proved to be lots of fun as the Assembly Committee entertained the audience with a Dick Whittington panto, Sister Act choir and Jive Bunnies dance routine.

Have a look at the picture and if you think that is Ivor Twydell handling the nuns, then you are right. Ivor (Chief of Luton Police) got into the spirit and gave an excellent rendition of Slade's Merry Xmas with the Sister Act choir. For more photographs of the event log onto the Assembly Website at [www.lutonassembly.org.uk](http://www.lutonassembly.org.uk) (

### Next Assembly meeting

The first Assembly meeting of the New Year will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, time and venue to be arranged. Watch this space for more details

## Your Assembly Representative on Luton Forum Themed Sub-groups

Interest Area	Representative	Representative Email:
<b>A Dynamic &amp; Creative Town</b>	Linda Farrell	<a href="mailto:snapart@hotmail.com">snapart@hotmail.com</a>
	Andy Calvert	<a href="mailto:lubya@ukonline.co.uk">lubya@ukonline.co.uk</a>
<b>Learning Skills</b>	Linda Farrell	<a href="mailto:snapart@hotmail.com">snapart@hotmail.com</a>
	Anjana Parmar	<a href="mailto:anj@lutonmentor.com">anj@lutonmentor.com</a>
	Pamela Hagley	<a href="mailto:pam@hightown.org.uk">pam@hightown.org.uk</a>
<b>Business</b>	Rose Davis	<a href="mailto:melrosedavis@aol.com">melrosedavis@aol.com</a>
	David Oakley-Hill	<a href="mailto:doh@boltblue.com">doh@boltblue.com</a>
<b>Environment &amp; Sustainability</b>	David Oakley-Hill	<a href="mailto:doh@boltblue.com">doh@boltblue.com</a>
	Naseem Mirza	<a href="mailto:naseemmirza62@hotmail.com">naseemmirza62@hotmail.com</a>
	Dorothy Broomfield	<a href="mailto:dcompton@dcomptonplus.com">dcompton@dcomptonplus.com</a>
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	Everton Blake	<a href="mailto:everton@dalecentre.org">everton@dalecentre.org</a>
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	David Oakley-Hill	<a href="mailto:doh@boltblue.com">doh@boltblue.com</a>
<b>Community Cohesion</b>	Dr Nazia Khanum	<a href="mailto:nkhanum@aol.com">nkhanum@aol.com</a>
	Anjana Parmar	<a href="mailto:anj@lutonmentor.com">anj@lutonmentor.com</a>
	Sarita Jain	<a href="mailto:sarita@dallow.org">sarita@dallow.org</a>
	Joycelyn Bullock	<a href="mailto:jos.bullock@ntlworld.com">jos.bullock@ntlworld.com</a>
	Caroline Stephenson	<a href="mailto:carolinestephenson7@hotmail.com">carolinestephenson7@hotmail.com</a>
	Rose Davis	<a href="mailto:melrosedavis@aol.com">melrosedavis@aol.com</a>
	Dorothy Broomfield	<a href="mailto:dcompton@dcomptonplus.com">dcompton@dcomptonplus.com</a>
	Mobeen Qureshi	
Natubhai Solanki	(no email)	
<b>Co-ordinating group</b>	Jenny Spouge	<a href="mailto:jenny@lutonfoyer.org.uk">jenny@lutonfoyer.org.uk</a>

Last updated: 15th December 2005



## Patient and Public Involvement – Meeting Dates

In Public PPI Forum Meetings have been arranged as follows:

- PPI Forum For Luton & Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust: Thursday, 19 January 2006 2pm Board Room VAL
- PPI Forum For Bedfordshire & Luton Partnership (working in Partnership with the Mental Health Partnership Trust):
- Thursday, 26 January 2006 3.30pm St Andrews Hall Bedford
- PPI Forum For Luton (working in Partnership with Luton tPCT) Thursday, 9 February 2006 2pm Board Room

Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings. If you would like a copy of the agenda, please contact Iris, **Mary or Janet at; Voluntary Action Luton** Tel: **01582 733418**.



## Home Office supports Volunteering to Tune of £5m

The Home Office has announced details of a new GoldStar programme that will be used to fund volunteering, mentoring and befriending projects that demonstrate best practice.

The funding, which is worth £5 million, is guaranteed until 2008 by which time the GoldStar Volunteering and Monitoring Exemplar Programme aims to have supported 50 projects or groups.

Grants will begin in April 2006 and will continue until January 2007. A partnership formed of four government offices, Volunteering England and the National Mentoring and Befriending Foundation will nominate around 20 of the projects from regions where resources to increase volunteering activity among socially excluded communities are scarce.

The remainder will be selected from those currently receiving funding from the Home Office.

Detail: [www.gnn.gov.uk/content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=178192&NewsAreaID=2](http://www.gnn.gov.uk/content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=178192&NewsAreaID=2)



## Friends Provident Foundation

The Friends Provident Foundation makes grants of up to £200,000 to not-for-profit organisations for projects that address financial exclusion within disadvantaged communities.

The funding is distributed through the New Ideas programme which supports research into financial exclusion as well as seed core funding for new projects, and the Market Models programme which provides funding so that successful projects can be expanded.

For more information please visit [www.friendsprovident.com](http://www.friendsprovident.com).



## Big Fund Reaches Out to Communities - £100 Million

The Big Lottery Fund is launching a major £100 million programme of funding for communities from the 7 December. The Reaching Communities programme will support projects that improve the quality of life in communities across England, offering help to those most in need.

The programme will provide funding of £100 million in its first year, with up to £500,000 available for individual projects.

The new Reaching Communities programme was developed following extensive public consultation which recognised a strong demand for a lightly prescribed, demand-led funding programme that allowed communities to bring real improvements to the lives of those most in need. The programme is largely aimed at benefiting the work of voluntary and community organisations.

Under the new scheme, the Big Lottery Fund will give out grants of up to £500,000 over five years for projects that: Offer people better chances in life, including being able to get better access to training and development to improve their life skills

- Build strong communities with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems.
- Develop improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy
- Create healthier and more active people and communities.

The maximum length of funding under this programme will be five years to allow projects more time to develop and become sustainable.

The Fund is also streamlining the application process so that organisations will be able to complete an outline proposal, providing brief information on the project, and will receive initial feedback within 15 working days. After this they can be asked to submit a full application form or signpost to another BIG programme which might be more appropriate for their proposals.

Regularly updated information on the Big Lottery Fund's new programmes is available at:

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/publications.htm](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/publications.htm)



## Connecting Communities Plus - New Grants Available

If your organisation is geared towards stimulating good community relations and race equality, there is funding that could help you fulfill your goals.

Connecting Communities Plus is a grant scheme launched last October and is designed to help deliver 'Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society', the Government's strategy to increase race equality and community cohesion. This fund is sponsored by the Race Equality Unit and the Cohesion and Faiths Unit of the Home Office and administered by A4e on their behalf.

For more information on how to apply for funding, go to : [www.a4e.co.uk/connectingcommunitiesplus](http://www.a4e.co.uk/connectingcommunitiesplus), or Tel: 0845 121 5195, or email: [a4egrants@a4e.co.uk](mailto:a4egrants@a4e.co.uk)



## Unexpected Christmas present for local groups seeking funding

You may be interested to know that a number of fund giving organisations still have cash in their bank accounts, and that they particularly want to give this money to worthy causes in the East of England.

- **Esmee Fairbairn Foundation** has recently highlighted the lack of applications from the East of England to its main grant programmes. In particular, the Foundation's education programme is under-subscribed, further details of which can be found on: [www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/programmes/edu.html](http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/programmes/edu.html). The Foundation would be very pleased to hear from any Eastern region organisations that might be interested in applying for a grant. For further information, please contact Patrick Webb at: [p.webboffice@onetel.net](mailto:p.webboffice@onetel.net).
- **Comic Relief** Although Comic Relief grant programmes are now more specific and refined, as with Esmee Fairbairn, there is a general lack of take-up in the East of England across all its funding programmes. Please see the Comic Relief website for further details at: [www.comicrelief.com](http://www.comicrelief.com)
- **Big Lottery Fund – Young People's Fund**. This grant programme was launched a year ago and again, take-up in the East of England is the lowest of the English regions. The BLF is actively encouraging organisations in the East to apply to this programme. Details can be found at: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/programmes/ypf/index.htm](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/programmes/ypf/index.htm)



## £75 Million Boost for Community Sport and Talent Development

Sport England, the body that promotes and invests in community sport, is committing a further £75 million to the English Regions and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), to help develop talent and boost participation in sport over the next 3 years.

This new investment is in addition to the £315 million four year funding announced at the beginning of the year for the NGBs and comes from increased National Lottery sales and further savings from back-office costs.

The additional funding will be invested directly at the grassroots level, funding county sport partnerships and the sports themselves. It will be used to get more people on the ground across the sporting system, funding coaches and helping with the identification and development of talented youngsters.

Sport England has identified that the countries across the world that have been most successful in increasing participation in sport have focussed on three key areas: investing in facilities, running a sustained physical activity campaign and investing in the people within the system to help greater numbers of people to get active.

Details contact Sport England: [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)



## Football Foundation Community and Education Scheme

The aim of the Community and Education Small Grants Scheme (SGS) is to introduce new activity which will increase participation and provide training for volunteers to support grassroots football.

Funding of up to £9,000 is available for projects costing up to £10,000. Percentage support varies, but will not exceed 90% of the total project cost.

Applications are welcomed from community groups, youth clubs football clubs and education establishments. The Foundation wants to encourage applications from groups whose income is less than £15,000 per annum. Applicants should:

- Comply with the aims of the scheme, clearly stating what the objectives are and how they are going to achieve them
- Set out the details of activity already provided and what new activity will be delivered if funding is secured
- Outline how many individuals the group currently engages with (of which age and gender) and how many new participants (of which age or gender) they aim to attract
- Identify partnership funding
- Provide all appropriate supporting documentation
- Demonstrate partnership working
- Demonstrate how the project will continue after Foundation funding ceases.

The Foundation encourages: projects conducted over a three year period; projects aimed at engaging traditionally excluded groups; the introduction of new lunchtime/after school clubs leading to inter school competition; the introduction of new age groups to a Club; Level One/level Two Coaching courses delivered as part of a wider programme which support the introduction of new teams/delivery of new activities and projects that work towards integrating new players into a league/competition.

There is no deadline for applications.  
For further information - see website:  
[www.footballfoundation.org.uk](http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk) or  
Tel: 0800 0277766



## Social Enterprise Visit Programme

Building a successful business is hard enough without falling into the same traps as others that have gone before you. The Social Enterprise Visit Programme puts you in touch with other social enterprises whose experience can help you make your business a success.

For more details please call 0870 458 4147 or visit [www.socialenterprisevisits.com](http://www.socialenterprisevisits.com).



## Money for Work with Children and Young People

A quick reminder about the local Network Fund for children and young people. Organisations can apply for up to £7,000 per year. The only stipulations are that your organisation has a turnover of less than £100,000, that the work benefits children and young people, that your work fits one of their broad themes and that you have a child protection policy (help is available with developing one of these). For an application pack Contact the National Call Centre on **Tel: 0845 1130 161**



## Young Roots

The Heritage Lottery Fund's Young Roots scheme offers grants of between £5,000 and £25,000 for heritage projects lasting no longer than eighteen months. It aims to involve young people aged between thirteen and twenty (up to twenty five for those with special needs) in finding out about their heritage, developing skills, building confidence and promoting community involvement.

A project must be related to the local and culturally varied heritage of the UK. For example, it could involve young people researching a local archive or doing practical casework on a nature reserve.

It must be delivered by a partnership. Youth groups have to work with at least one heritage partner, which might be a local wildlife trust or a museum. Projects must be able to contribute something to the costs of the project, either in cash or in kind, for example, time, materials, premises and so on.

Young Roots projects stem directly from young peoples' interests and ideas, harnessing their creativity and energy and helping them work with others in their local community. Applicants must show how young people are managing and participating in the proposed activities. Projects should also promote social inclusion and equal opportunities by involving a wide range of young people of different abilities and cultural backgrounds.

There is no deadline for applications.

Further details and application forms can be downloaded their website or phone to discuss potential applications:

**Email Enquiry helpline: 020 7591 6000**

**Minicom 020 7591 6255**

**Email enquire@hlf.org.uk**

**Website www.hlf.org.uk** and click on "How to Apply"



## Adventure Capital Fund

The Adventure Capital Fund is inviting applications under its Investment Programme. They provide loans, funding and some gift capital to fill the gap between traditional grant aid and commercial loans. In particular they are looking for applications from social and community based enterprises and other similar organisations that feel they are ready to use their investment as part of a finance package that will enable them to grow and become sustainable. For more information visit: **www.adventurecapitalfund.org.uk**.



## Gordon Cook Foundation

Gordon Cook Foundation is dedicated to the advancement and promotion of all aspects of education and training which are likely to promote character development and citizenship. The trustees have adopted the term Values Education to denote the wide range of activity they seek to support. This support includes:

The promotion of good citizenship in its widest terms, including aspects of moral, ethical and aesthetic education, youth work, cooperation between home and school, and co-ordinating work in school with leisure time pursuits

- The promotion of Health Education as it relates to Values Education
- Supporting relevant aspects of moral and religious education
- Helping parents, teachers and others to enhance the personal development of pupils and young people
- Supporting developments in school curriculum subjects that relate to Values Education
- Helping pupils and young people to develop commitment to the value of work, industry and enterprise generally
- Disseminating the significant results of relevant research and development

The trustees are pro-active in looking for projects to support but may consider unsolicited applications that fall within their criteria and are in accordance with current programmes.

To get an application form **Tel 01224 571010**

Email **i.b.brown@gordoncook.org.uk**

**Website www.gofdoncook.org.uk**



## Victims Fund: Provision for Victims of Sexual Offending

The Home Office is placing £1.25 million for 2006/7 into the Victims Fund to support the development of community-based services for victims of sexual offending. The new funding will build on the successful 2004/5 and 2005/6 schemes, where 108 awards were awarded directly to a broad cross-section of voluntary and community sector projects.

The new funding scheme is open to all established voluntary and community organisations within England and Wales, with experience and expertise in working with victims of sexual offending.

Applications would be particularly welcome from:

- Organisations currently funded through the Victims Fund wishing to continue or grow successful existing services.
- Organisations working with victims who have experienced sexual violence as a result of their membership of a minority group.
- Organisations working with victims of stalking (where sexual violence is part of the stalking behaviour).

Applications for funding must be received no later than 17 February 2006.

**Details email: VictimsFund@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk**



## Employing People

The Northern Rock Foundation has produced some excellent additional guidance for organisations making applications that include the salaries of new or existing staff. The guidance sets out their expectations and requirements, and describes which elements of staff costs they will support. Even if you are not thinking about applying to the foundation it is a useful read as it sets out the main issues you should consider when applying for funding to employ someone.

For more information see: [www.nr-foundation.org](http://www.nr-foundation.org).



## Embedding Literacy, Language & Numeracy Support

ACER are offering five free one day training events for staff involved in the delivery of Health & Social Care programmes who may wish to find out more about the resources available and learn practical strategies for embedding Skills for Life support. Further information is available from their website at [www.acer.ac.uk](http://www.acer.ac.uk).



## Working with Voluntary Organisations

This is an open-entry course for those with or without experience of voluntary work. It covers how to manage voluntary organisations more effectively, how to deal with people and budgets, as well as the legal aspects of voluntary work. This HE Level 1 Certificate in Working is available from University of Cambridge and more details can be found on their website at:

[www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk).



## Local Partnerships Transforming Communities:

**Bridging The Gap Between National Aspiration and Local Action, London. 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> February,**

This conference aims to discuss how to turn rhetoric into reality and features contributions from major figures in all sectors and case studies that will share the secrets of partnership. For more information please visit [www.nacvs.org.uk](http://www.nacvs.org.uk).



## Training Subsidy for Not-for-Profit Organisations

The Projects Company, working with local Learning and Skills Councils and Business Links, has identified a funding programme that subsidises a range of courses including such topics as Fundraising and Project Management. The funding programmes vary a little from region to region but approximate to a value of £1,000 per organisation/individual. To find out more about this fund please contact Firoz Hussein on 0208 502 2327 or visit

[www.theprojectsco.co.uk](http://www.theprojectsco.co.uk)



## Community Champions Fast Track scheme doubles its grants

Individuals can now apply for up to £500 through the Community Champions Fund Fast Track scheme, which can usually provide grants within three weeks.

Previously the most that could be requested was £250. Anyone over 16 is eligible to apply, and priority is given to applicants new to leading a voluntary project or with little or no previous experience of community activity.

Money can be used to set up a new community-based group, to attend a training course and pass on new skills, for a one-off community event, or for a new aspect of an existing voluntary project.

Mainstream CCF grants, of up to £2,000, are also available, but these usually take eight weeks to process.

**For more details contact Emma Heley at CCF on 01366 347879 or [emma.heley@cover-east.org](mailto:emma.heley@cover-east.org).**



## New Women's Group

JKP have a New Women's Group on Wednesdays from 12:30 – 13:30. During this time you can access our IT suite to learn basic computer programmes such as Word, brush up on your IT skills, gain qualifications, use the internet, and work at your own pace.

They have a female IT trainer on hand to help and guide you. You can meet new people, and find out about future activities such as card making, relaxation, gentle exercise, healthy eating and more.

Refreshments will be provided.

For more information on all the activities available please contact **Tel: 01582 723434 or Email: [administration@alcohol-services.co.uk](mailto:administration@alcohol-services.co.uk)**



### Directory of Voluntary & Community Groups

Don't forget to use your voucher to collect your Directory of Voluntary & Community Groups in Luton. This is now available and can be collected from our offices between 9.00 am – 4.00 pm Monday to Friday.

**(Please ensure that you bring the voucher to exchange)**

Voluntary Organisations can purchase further copies at reduced rate of £15. Statutory, other agencies and companies can purchase copies at £25 per copy (postage is £1.50 per copy) Contact Sue Lovegrove Tel: 01582 733418

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