

Voluntary Matters

Issue Number 93
October 09



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Voluntary and Community Sector News in Luton

Voluntary Action Luton AGM

Monday
2nd November 2009
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
3rd floor
Conference Room

The Voluntary Action Luton (VAL) AGM provides an opportunity to hear about some of the wide ranging work that VAL is involved in and about the Social Infrastructure Report which will affect the sector and its potential impact.

The AGM will include presentations from staff at Voluntary Action Luton about the type of work they carry out within the organisation.

Light refreshments will be provided, if you wish to attend our AGM please email at info@valuton.org.uk or telephone the number below to acknowledge your attendance. Look forward to seeing you.

To RSVP please reply to:
Tel: 01582 733418 or
email: info@valuton.org.uk

Luton Assembly

Luton
Assembly Coordinator

Post fixed term until 31st March 2012

35 hours a week £25,146 per annum

Voluntary Action Luton are looking for a dynamic individual with a minimum of 2 years community development experience. You must be passionate about the local voluntary and community sector and understand the importance of their representation at the highest local strategic level.

You will be using your great organisational and communications skills to support the Luton Assembly and its 5 Committees to influence the decision making process.

For an application pack, please call **01582 733418** or email info@valuton.org.uk or download an application pack at: www.valuton.org.uk

Voluntary Action Luton is an equal opportunity employer

Deadline for the receipt of completed application forms is 1200hrs, **Wednesday 11th November 2009.**

Interviews will be held on **Wednesday 25th November 2009.**
Registered Charity: 1059287

The Luton Assembly is launching its
Stronger and Safer Network

1st December 2009

Hightown Sports and Arts Centre
1000hrs – 1300hrs Lunch provided

Have a look at the Luton Assembly pages inside this Newsletter and you will see the restructuring update. The multi-agency, Community Safety Executive (CSE) is in the process of developing a Stronger and Safer Communities Board.

The CSE want to reduce crime and the fear of crime in Luton and have recognised the contribution the VCS does and can make to lowering the crime figures and strengthening communities by funding the development of a Luton Assembly Voluntary and Community Sector, Stronger and Safer Network for the next two years.

Are you delivering on crime in Luton, if so come to the launch event on the 1st December, meet representatives of the Assembly Stronger and Safer Communities Committee and Government Office East and agree action for the next 2 years. You may also want to consider booking as a cross cutting theme. To attend, complete the enclosed Booking Form and return using the FREEPOST Address provided. .

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

VAL Projects and other Sector News	2
Luton Assembly	2
Bedfordshire LINK / Funding News	3
Notice Board and Events Funding News	4

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 for 2009 are 4th December. Please don't forget to let us know if your contact details change. Please send changes to: sue.lovegrove@valuton.org.uk

Restructuring Update

Luton Assembly is now working along the lines of 4 themed areas; environment & economy, health & wellbeing, stronger and safer and children and young people. Most of you will be familiar with the very successful children and young people's network VISION4 and how it works to build capacity within the sector by acting as a focal point for information sharing, service design and other opportunities.

We have developed a further 3 networks to work on similar lines to VISION4 and the new Chairs have been asked to introduce themselves and their Network.

Environment & Economy

Survey

We would like you to identify which theme network that your organisation should be part of by completing the small survey inserted inside the Newsletter and return to the freepost address on the form.

My name is David Oakley-Hill and I am the Chairperson of the new Environment and Economy theme Network Committee



representing the network throughout the Local Strategic Partnership. I believe that this network can help the local third sector to influence decision makers and play a strong part in changing behavior to encompass

sustainable, more locally based lifestyles and service delivery, to protect biodiversity and radically cut carbon and eco-footprints leading to climate emissions.

That is half of our story and we also represent the sector on issues relevant to our local economy; jobs, skills and regeneration, actively debating issues with Luton's business leaders and officers.

We are looking at issues such as the Junction 10 development, Growth Area Agenda, skills agenda and Building Schools for the Future. We are keen to include as many organisations in Luton in the environmental and economic debate and hope that you will consider registering your interest with our database.

Luton Assembly Evaluation

Luton Assembly is in the process of developing and evaluation toolkit. We want to know what you think of the Assembly and how it works for you. A survey will be released shortly via email. Please give five minutes of your time to complete, when you receive the email.

Resignation of Andy Calvert

Andy Calvert, Executive Director of LUBYA has resigned from the Luton Assembly. Andy has been a very active member of the Luton Assembly for 8 years, Chair of the Children and Young people's Network for 2 years and Vice Chair of the Luton Forum for 2 years. Andy's main area of expertise has always been youth and he has used his considerable knowledge to represent the Luton Assembly on all of Luton's major children and youth Boards. His vision, creative spirit and strategic level thinking, not just for Luton but also Bedfordshire really did make a difference and he will be missed by the voluntary and community sector.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy on behalf of Luton Assembly and the local VCS. We wish you the very best for your future.

Linda Farrell
Luton Assembly Chairperson

Oh, I forgot to tell you why he has resigned.....he has secured a position with Luton Borough Council !!!

Health and Wellbeing Network

Masood Ahktar. I am the elected Chairperson of the newly developed Luton Assembly Health & Wellbeing Network Committee. I hope that all the VCS organisations working within the health and wellbeing sector (Including older persons & housing) will be brought together to shape service delivery and design by the existence of the Network and provide a strengthened voice around the strategic table. We don't have funding to operate separately like the children and young people and stronger and safer Communities Networks but we hope that such funding can be identified in the future through continued negotiations.

Stronger and Safer Communities Network

This is a difficult one to define. I am Jenny Spouge and as the Chairperson of the newly formed Stronger and Safer Communities Network Committee, I would encourage any organisations working within the field of crime to consider putting themselves onto the SSC Network. Think outside of the box also and consider sitting on this Network if your organisation is concerned with strengthening communities; equality, inclusion and cohesion. This Committee is working closely with the multi agency Community Safety Executive who view our Network as a positive addition to their decision making process and have committed to fund the network for the next 2 years.

We really want your opinions and issues to be fed into their strategies and policies and look forward to collating your views, holding events and generally sharing practise.

VISIION4

The Children and Young People's Network, recently Chaired by Andy Calvert up until his resignation. I am the Vice Chair and called **Rob Simpson** and will take over Chairing in the interim. VISION4 has been running for the past year, developed with funding via the Children's Workforce Development Council's Workforce Strategy Partners Programme. It has been a highly successful programme locally and with the demise of the present funding it will be my job to steer the Committee to a refreshed Action Plan. I want organisations to sign up to the 350 strong Network, to ensure that we maintain our momentum in developing the capacity of the C & YP sector and understanding of the statutory agencies.



Update From The Bedfordshire Local Involvement Network

It has been quite an eventful few months for those involved with the Bedfordshire LiNk.

Debbie Roberts from the East Region Development Centre facilitated a workshop for the LiNk Board, Host and Local Authorities on 14 September looking at the roles, responsibilities and expectations of each group. There was discussion about the Local Authorities wish to split the LiNk into two; one for Bedford Borough and one for Central Bedfordshire.

The LiNk Board at its September meeting agreed to call an Extraordinary meeting of the full membership (some 115 members) discuss the issue of the split – this scheduled for late October. The outcome of this meeting will be reported back to the Local Authorities at a meeting with the respective Local Authority Directors in early November.



to is

In terms of progressing work items, the LiNk Working Group for Mental Health & Learning Disabilities visited the Weller Wing, Acute Assessment Unit at Bedford Hospital to have a look at the newly refurbished facilities for service users. Members were also able to talk to Patrick Geoghegan, Interim Chief Executive and members of the Integrated staff team.

LiNk members were shown new single-sex accommodation, a separate area for more vulnerable service users, new kitchens, bathroom facilities, lounges and pharmacy area. *LiNk member, Stuart Buchanan commented "I found the new Weller Wing to be outstanding. Looking at it now, it has a "hotel type of feel" – very modern, clean and bright. A superb refurbishment for staff and clients."*

The LiNk Acute Services Working Group is trying to arrange a visit to Ipswich Hospital with Suffolk LiNk members, to look at disposable curtains used throughout the hospital to stop the spread of infection.

Host Support staff, Marian and Nikki staffed stalls at the following events:
 Bedford Borough New Beginnings Event on 16 September at the Corn Exchange, Bedford
 The L&D Hospital Annual Members meeting
 The Beds and Luton Partnership Trust Annual General Meeting

Older Peoples Festival – Biggleswade Bedfordshire Women's Forum, Queens Park, Bedford

Operations Manager, Charlotte Bonser along with Nisar Mohammed, Community Development Officer for Luton LiNk presented to the Sight Concern Annual meeting at Woburn Abbey. As part of the session, they interviewed Luton and Bedfordshire LiNk members Jocelyn Bullock and Crystal Burgoyne about their experiences of being a LiNk member.

These events have proved to be very useful in terms of networking, and has resulted in half a dozen new members for the LiNk in September.



Reaching Communities Programme

Communities are at the heart of Reaching Communities. They want to fund projects that respond to needs identified by communities, and actively involve them, projects that help those most in need including those people or groups who are hard to reach. They will give support to those projects the think best meet their communities' needs.

Reaching Communities will give grants of more than £10,000 and up to £500,000, including a maximum of £50,000 for capital grants. They have set a maximum overall project size of £750,000 and £200,000 for the total capital element within a project. They will fund projects for up to 5 years.

They want to bring about the following changes as a result of their funding through this programme:

People having better chances in life, including being able to get better access to training and development to improve their life skills strong communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy healthier and more active people and communities.

You can apply for this funding if you are:

- A registered charity
- A voluntary or community group
- A statutory body (including schools)
- A charitable or not-for-profit company
- A social enterprise - a business that is chiefly run for social objectives, whose profits are reinvested in the business rather than going to shareholders and owners

If you have any queries about this programme, please contact the BIG Advice Line on:

0845 4 10 20 30 where you can also obtain an application pack and guidance notes.

The BIG Advice Line will be able to answer any questions you want to ask prior to submitting a form. Please note that the Outline Proposal Form (OPF) team will only be able to help you once you have submitted an OPF form.

Alternatively, you can download the pack and guidance notes by clicking on the link on the right. The PDF version of the outline proposal form is for printing out and filling in by hand. Alternatively you can fill in the RTF version of the form in and email it back to opteam@biglotteryfund.org.uk.

**Funding Information on page 3 and 4 compiled by:
 Sal Rahman, Funding Support Officer &
 Lesley Nicholls, Funding Community Manager
 Partnerships and Funding Team
 Regeneration Service
 Telephone 01582 547203**



Advocacy Alliance

Our Older People's service aim, is to find out what it is that the older person wants and needs and help them to express this. This can involve anything from knowing where to find a service provider to improving family relations by acting as a go-between. It may require putting confusing language into plain words that are better understood so that older and vulnerable adults can understand what is being said. We can then help them to work through their difficulties for themselves.

This service is running until 31st March 2010.

We believe that there is a need for people of all ages to remain well informed of their rights and options and to speak up for themselves even if there are obstacles to overcome. In a fast paced environment with many pressures and constraints this is not always easy. It is then that the role of an advocate can be helpful.

A gentleman who was moved into a residential home as an emergency admission now has much improved health as a result of the care received. He is now being advised he has to return to independent living even though this is both against his wishes and will result in a deterioration of his health.

The work of Advocacy Alliance's Older People's service could be summed up in the following statements

Everyone has a right to be respected and listened to.

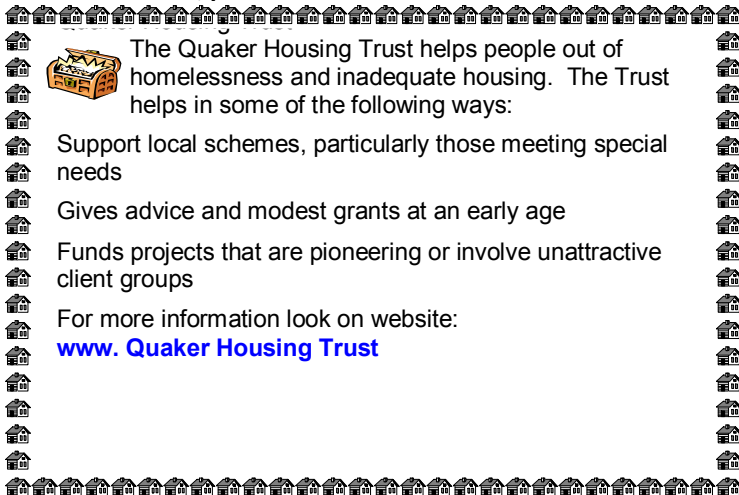
Everyone has a right to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.

Everyone has a right to contribute and participate in their communities.

Vulnerable people should be supported to make their views known.

In our contemporary society with an ageing population the need for our work is only going to grow in the years ahead. Further details contact Sue Kesterton or Heena Yadav on **01582 422742**.

Housing



The Quaker Housing Trust helps people out of homelessness and inadequate housing. The Trust helps in some of the following ways:

Support local schemes, particularly those meeting special needs

Gives advice and modest grants at an early age

Funds projects that are pioneering or involve unattractive client groups

For more information look on website:

[www. Quaker Housing Trust](http://www.QuakerHousingTrust)

VACANCY

Project Development Officer



Salary £10,516 plus expenses
15 hours per week, temporary for 6 months
(may be made permanent)

Access to Everything Limited – ATE has an exciting opportunity to appoint to a part time post to take responsibility for the continued development of ATE.

The post involves working in the Luton area to promote social inclusion and improve the opportunities available for people with a learning disability, their parents and carers.

Candidates must be prepared to work some evenings and Saturdays, be self motivated, well organised, a car owner/driver and a team player.

For an application pack please e-mail acesstoeverything@hotmail.co.uk
If you do not have access to a computer, please provide your name and address by telephone, speaking clearly and spelling any unusual words, to: 01582 517486

Closing date for applications: 19th October 2009
Interviews will be held week commencing: 2nd November 2009

Access to Everything Limited
Suite 33,
65-67 Bute Street, Luton, LU1 2EY
Email: acesstoeverything@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: **01582 517486**
Charity No: 1126527 Company Reg No: 6466519



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

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