



2011 Census – Going Ahead

The national Census takes place every ten years and is a count of every person living in the UK. The next Census will take place on 27th March 2011. The information is kept in strictest confidence and is turned into statistics to build a picture of local communities.

Why Does It Matter To Me?

The Census matters to everyone as its population counts are used to identify local needs and allocate money to Luton for local services in the next 10 years.

These include health, the police, schools and colleges, housing, roads and public transport and other services provided by the Council such as social care and sports & leisure facilities.

Businesses also use Census information to help plan where to provide jobs and facilities such as shops. The Census needs to include everyone and that is why everyone has to take part. The Borough Council believes that its current undercount of the population means that Luton is not receiving its fair share of government grants and has traced this to low responses in the previous Census.

What Is Happening?

The Office for National Statistics has already started to work with Luton Borough Council and other local partners to plan for the Census and to encourage and help everyone to be counted. This will help Luton receive its fair share of funding in the future.

Every household will receive a Census form in early March next year. For the first time it will be possible to complete the Census on-line via the internet as well as returning the form by post.

Is It Confidential?

Information provided in the Census is kept in strictest confidence and will only be used to provide statistics. The information will not be shared with any other Government department or organisation.

How can my Organisation Assist

ONS is looking to work with voluntary groups to help promote the Census and Census Job Opportunities across Luton. You can assist by displaying publicity about Census jobs and drawing your clients/ members/customers attention to these opportunities. You can also help promote a high response to the Census in various ways.

Around 35000 Census field staff are needed across England and Wales and a recruitment campaign is under way. Many of the jobs are part time and can be combined with family or caring responsibilities or other work. In Luton we are keen to encourage applications from a wide range of people including those who can speak community languages. More information on the available jobs can be found at www.censusjobs.co.uk.

ONS staff are able to meet with your organisation and/or present in order to provide an overview of the Census and its importance. This could be to explore further how you can assist or be part of a wider process of engagement with the community.

Can I Get More Information?

As we get nearer to Census day, more information will be provided, including about how you can get help if needed. If you wish to find out more now, the Census website contains lots of information at www.census.gov.uk

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Volunteering Opportunities in the Community

Shanthona seeking volunteers

Local women's group, Shanthona, are in need of volunteers who are interested in community support work with women and girls from BAME communities, particularly in the areas of health, social engagement and family support. They are also in need of someone with administration and record keeping skills.

Do you have time and want to help?

Could you be the person they are looking for?

If you want to find out more about these roles, then contact them on Tel 07957 105832,

Email shanthona@hotmail.co.uk or call in and speak to someone at Dallow Learning Community Centre, 234 Dallow Road, Luton, LU1 1TB. (CRB checks will be carried out)

DLCC Volunteers

Dallow Learning Community Centre also have a range of volunteering opportunities at their centre, supporting the centre in its services to the local community. Interested? Then get in touch with Haroon Ahmed, Centre Manager on

Tel 01582 410333 or email haroon@dallow.org.uk.

Voluntary Matters



Issue Number 99
 October 2010

Voluntary and Community Sector News in Luton

Voluntary Action Luton's AGM

Monday
8th November 2010
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
3rd floor Conference Room
15 New Bedford Road Luton

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 new projects we have been undertaking. There will be a presentation by the Youth Steering Group about Luton's Myplace project, a £4.8m project funded through the DCSF.

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 there .

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

The Luton Forum invites you to a summit meeting on the future of Luton's voluntary and community sector

Thursday 4th November
1730hrs – 1930hrs
Grosvenor House, Alma St, Luton

The Luton Forum is inviting all of Luton's individuals, who work in the VCS to attend a critical summit meeting, with Hazel Simmons (Leader of the Council) and Trevor Holden (LBC Chief Executive)

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss local cuts and the impact on the sector. If you attend you will:

- Hear an update on the financial forecasts for the next year following the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review
- Hear how the Council and its partners are working to balance the budgets and protect services for residents
- Hear about the possible impact on the VCS
- Be able to tell us new ways of working with the VCS and challenge existing arrangements

To book your place at this crucial meeting please e-mail the following contact jenny.northwood@luton.gov.uk by Wednesday , 27th October 2010

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PLEASE NOTE:
Newsletter Copy Dates

If you would like an event or news item of feature included in our Newsletter, please provide a copy to us by the Closing date for Christmas edition will be Monday 22nd November

Please let us know if your contact details change.
 Email sue.lovegrove@valuton.org.uk
 Or Tel 01582 733418

Voluntary Matters is printed and published by Voluntary Action Luton.

Readers are welcome to use extracts within their own organisation provided its source and Voluntary Matters is credited. Contributions are welcomed.
 Please send copy to Sue Lovegrove , at VAL
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 Registered Charity No: 1059287 - Registered Company No: 3275961
 Every care is taken to provide accurate information. VAL accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions in, or complaints arising from, items in this publication.

VAL Training dates for October to February 2011

PLEASE NOTE:
To book your place simply complete the booking form and return it with a £10 refundable deposit. Please make your cheque payable to Voluntary Action Luton. Your deposit will be returned upon attendance.

Supervision & Appraisal *

Anyone responsible for managing staff or volunteers and for providing regular supervision and / or appraisal.

Date: 9.30am - 4pm 21st October 2010
Trainer: Pam McNay
Venue: Voluntary Action Luton
New Bedford Road, Luton, LU1 1SA

Making the most of your PC

Covering the basics, common problems & troubleshooting

Date: 9am - 12pm 2nd November 2010
Trainer: Des Carruthers
Venue: Voluntary Action Luton
New Bedford Road, Luton, LU1 1SA

Costing for Contracts

Learn to deal with all aspects of costing and pricing for services or projects

Date: 9.30am - 4pm 10th November 2010
Trainer: John O'Brien
Venue: Voluntary Action Luton
New Bedford Road, Luton, LU1 1SA

Creating your own Website

Tools for creating website content
Date: 9am - 12pm 16th November 2010
Trainer: Des Carruthers
Venue: Voluntary Action Luton
New Bedford Road, Luton, LU1 1SA

Writing a Business Plan

Learn about the dynamic process of planning and how to review your business and organization's agenda over time in a systematic manner

Date: 9.30am - 4pm 18th January 2011
Venue: Voluntary Action Luton
New Bedford Road, Luton, LU1 1SA

Roles and Responsibilities of a Trustee

Gain a better understanding of what is required as a Trustee of Committee member in order to run your organisation effectively

Date: 9.30am - 4pm 18th January 2011
Trainer: Samuel Agaba and Jean Myrie
Venue: Voluntary Action Luton
New Bedford Road, Luton, LU1 1SA

For further information about training please contact Jean Myrie on 01582 733418

For information on training with * please contact Marian Courtney on **01582 733418**.



Lottery support for overseas poor and marginalised continues

A new multi-million pound international Lottery programme has opened to channel funding into the poorest and most marginalised communities around the world through UK-based charities working overseas. The Big Lottery Fund's 5-year International Communities programme will make grants to projects tackling some of the causes of poverty and deprivation among impoverished communities overseas. It will fund schemes that improve access to primary education, health care and natural resources, build sustainable livelihoods and support disadvantaged people to exercise their basic human rights. Sir Clive Booth, Big Lottery Fund Chair, said: "Despite financial pressures we see all around us, international aid and supporting the poorest and most vulnerable communities remains a priority for the UK public."

"As Britain reinforces its commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, BIG is glad that through its International Communities programme, vital projects will continue to thrive. We aim to help people in their efforts to improve chances in life for their families and to look forward to a more sustainable future."

The International Communities programme will have a budget of £25 million between now and 2012 and will make grants of between £50,000 and £500,000 for projects lasting from two to five years. The funding budget from 2012-2015 is to be decided at a later date



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

Make a Difference Day update Saturday, 30 October from 10am - 4pm Lewsey Community Centre

The Working Group has met a couple of times and is pleased to be able to announce that this year's event will be held in and around Lewsey Community Centre.

- Bedfordshire Football Association will be facilitating some football;
- Team Beds and Luton will be running taster sessions in other sports, hopefully including cricket, handball and rugby;
- UK Centre for Carnival Arts is arranging for socarobics (a very popular combination of dance and aerobics!) and Zumba to be available; and
- Generations Together will be performing some inter-generational theatre
- There will also be mini-health MOTs available for all ages courtesy of NHS Luton.

If your organisation is interested in getting involved then just let us know. We will also need volunteers to help out on the day with stewarding etc, again if you are interested please get in touch.

The Event will be well publicised and more details will appear on our Website soon!

I Want to Find Out More About Volunteering

If you would like to find out more about volunteering you can either book an appointment with us at the Volunteer Centre Luton, or you can apply online at www.do-it.org.uk

Training

Voluntary Action Luton is planning to run a workshop at the end of November/beginning December which is predominantly for volunteers, but other personnel are welcome to apply. The content will include customer care, communications and work related skills.

If you are interested please contact: Marian Courtney marian.courtney@valuton.org.uk

For more information about any of the above or about volunteering in general please contact:

Phil Brown philip.brown@valuton.org.uk or Iris Beazley iris.beazley@valuton.org.uk
Tel: 01852 733418



The Volunteer Centre Luton is aiming to do more out-reach work around Luton over the coming months. This photograph was taken at the launch of Luton Borough Council's Full of Life Events for people 50+ at the Jubilee Centre, Marsh Farm on 1 October, which was opened by the Mayor. Information about these Events can be found on www.luton.gov.uk

Volunteer Coordinators' Network

The Network met on the 28 September; some 'new faces' joined us, which is always good to see. We ran a short workshop on the subject of volunteering opportunity descriptions and discussed a variety of issues relating to volunteer management including safeguarding, volunteering taster sessions and future events.

If your organisation uses volunteers you may wish to come along to the next meeting in January.

Time Banking Stopsley

If you live in the Stopsley Area you may be interested in joining our community skills exchange project, known as Time Banking Stopsley. The project involves members giving their time in one hour slots to help or support each other in a practical way. In return members are then able to 'withdraw' their time for something they would like help with. For example, one person might carry out some sewing in exchange for an hour of gardening from another person.



For more information please contact Iris Beazley.



BEDFORDSHIRE LINK is "Full of Life"!

Members of the Bedfordshire LINK and Host support staff from Voluntary Action Luton got involved in the recent "Full of Life Festival", celebrating older people, run by Central Bedfordshire Council.

The Full of Life Festival was held between 27 September – 1 October 2010, and included a variety of activities including information stalls giving a range of information about care, well-being and health services available to people, right through to protecting your home from theft and fire. The events took place on a very distinct and colourful bus called the Rave Bus which Central Beds Council hired from Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and at venues in Dunstable and Flitwick.

The Rave Bus started off in Biggleswade on the 27th September, Leighton Buzzard on the 28th and Shefford on the 30th. The final event was at Flitwick Village Hall at the beginning of October where the entertainment of belly-dancing, line-dancing and a magician helped people forget about the dismal, rainy day outside!



The LINK managed to have a presence at all events handing out information about the LINK, talking to people about getting involved in their health and social care and listening to peoples' issues about health and care provision in Central Bedfordshire.

We took the opportunity of doing a short survey of people who had time to answer a few questions about their experiences of a range of services including, how they felt about GP and hospital provision, pharmacy services, podiatry/chiropractic care, dentistry and care services including whether there were enough social and leisure services for older people.

What did we find out ?

Generally the public have a great respect for general practice, although a few complained about having to wait for appointments and about the attitude of some reception staff. There was one concern about having to wait for a hospital appointment when experiencing a great deal of pain and anxiousness about diagnosis.

Generally the public have a great respect for general practice.

Footcare remains a problem for the elderly.

Isolation is a problem for those not able to drive or don't have a social network.

With proposals for a health centre in Dunstable, some people did not want their GP to move to the new centre as the new location may not be as accessible as their current GP location. In Leighton Buzzard, many complained about the community hospital they have been waiting a long time for, some were concerned about where such a facility would be sited and hoped it would be in the town centre.

Isolation and difficulty getting to social facilities was another problem highlighted by older people, particularly those living in villages. Many were now not able to drive and feared going out in the evening. Others had a strong network of neighbours and belonged to local community groups and associations or were part of the University of the Third Age.

Dial-a-Ride offered some provision but was not really for individual transport requirements. Some older people wanted to learn computing skills so that they could keep up with the new technology of e-mails and receiving information quickly, but wanted say a mobile training facility that visited villages.

If you wish to know more about the work of the Bedfordshire LINK, please contact the LINK Host support team on 01582 733418, e-mail

beds-links@valuton.org.uk and speak to Charlotte, Nikki or Lemar.

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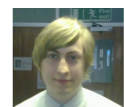
Farah Nisa / Volunteer Centre



Farewell to Farrah

Farrah has worked at Voluntary Action Luton for over 4 years, initially within the Administrative Team supporting with reception duties and other core functions. Farrah successfully gained a qualification in Information Advice & Guidance (IAG) as part of her on-going personal development. This has been a great asset in her new role as the Future Jobs Fund Support Officer, working with young people aged 16-25.

All the staff at VAL wish her the very best on her maternity leave and can't wait to see the little ones. Good Luck Farrah.



Farewell to Owen

During his time with us Owen has developed a range of transferable skills to support him in his long term search for full time employment. Owen will be leaving us on 1st November and all the team would like to wish him the very best in the future.



Farah Nisa

Farah's term as a Future Job Fund Placement is also coming to an end. We are pleased to say that she is going to continue working with us in the Volunteer Centre.

What would you do if?



No one likes to think about emergency situations, but being adequately prepared is something for which we all need to take responsibility.

Support systems are in place across Bedfordshire and Luton to assist in times of crisis - but if an emergency arose, would you know what to do and where to go for help?

Vital information to help you prepare for any emergency can be found at: www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk

For further guidance regarding emergency planning, email administrator@blirf.org.uk

Remember: Plan in advance

Have an emergency kit ready with water, food, first aid kit, torch, whistle and a battery powered radio.

Keep important documents and contact numbers safe and handy at all times

If you are involved in any emergency

- Make sure 999 has been called if people are injured or there is a threat of life
- Don't put yourself or others in danger
- Follow the advice of the emergency services

Emergency contact details

NHS Direct	0845 46 47
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Bedfordshire Police	01234 841 212

Luton Assembly's
Stronger and Safer Network
invites you to attend

Building The Dream

Monday
29th November 2010
9:30- 2pm
At
Central Baptist Church
Park Street, Luton




VCS speak with one voice at Cuts to Funding meeting

The Voluntary and Community Sector Cuts to Funding meeting, organised by Luton Assembly and Voluntary Action Luton was held on Monday 6th September 2010 at the Hat Factory, Luton.

Over 33 different organisations were represented by those present at the meeting, which began with an update from Luton Assembly's Chair, Jenny Spouge and included an overview of the responses received from the ongoing Cuts to VCS Funding survey.

Those assembled then broke into smaller groups where discussion took place on issues such as priorities, criteria for cuts, actions which could be taken and the message which they felt should be taken forward. Following the feedback from the groups, a thoughtful range of issues were explored.

It was heartening to see the common consensus between the wide range of VCS organisations present, covering services as diverse as health, environment, sport, advocacy, housing, disabilities and communities groups. Kelvin Hopkins MP and Cllr Sid Rutstein were also present, giving their support to the VCS. These views will now be taken forward to the next meeting between Luton Assembly, VCS and statutory partners to be held on the 4th November at Grosvenor House.

A summary of the discussed responses is available from the Luton Assembly website at www.lutonassembly.org.uk or contact assembly.admin@valuton.org.uk for a hard copy.

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'Building the Dream'

The Luton Assembly's Stronger and Safer Network will be hosting their event on **Monday 29th November 2010 at the Central Baptist Church, Park Street, Luton at 9:30am till 2pm**

'Building The Dream' will bring together the local Voluntary and Community Sector who are working to strengthen Luton's communities, to consider network models to help us to deliver our shared priorities, that will enable us to build upon and improve the strength and resilience of the communities of Luton.

The keynote speaker is Ruhana Ali a community activist working in Tower Hamlets.

The Stronger and Safer Network has grown over the last 12 months and we would really like to encourage more organisations to become a member of the Stronger and Safer Network.

We feel all Voluntary Community Sector organisations have something to offer the network, so come along and see if it is for you.

For more Information about this event, to book, or to enquire about joining the Stronger and Safer Network, please contact **Alyson Horwood, the Stronger and Safer Network Facilitator by phone on 01582 733418 or via email to stronger.safer@valuton.org.uk.**



TOKKO News Bulletin

Issue #2 October 2010

Your Myplace facility has a name!

As you may or may not know we launched a competition a few months ago to find a name for the facility... Well the votes are in and the winning name is...

TOKKO

"TOKKO is what TOKKO is, an infantile word with no apparent meaning. As Myplace develops and becomes and grows into the HUB of youth culture for Luton, TOKKO will mature along with it.

TOKKO will become what TOKKO becomes. It is free of the shackles of familiarity and innovative enough to withstand the corrosive nature of time.

TOKKO looks a bit like TOKYO, the Japanese capital which has connotations with Zen and inner peace. On the other hand, TOKYO is a city famous for being at the forefront of fashion and technological development.

TOKKO is self-evident."

- Gameli Ladzekpo—Aged 16.

What have we been up to?

On the 27th of September 2010 the Business plan and Capital delivery plan were submitted to Big Lottery Fund!

The TOKKO team and the YSG would like to thank everyone involved in that process!

- The Luton BSF Team
- Wates Construction
- A-Studio Architecture

Thanks to all of your hard work over the past few months, the dream that young people in Luton will be the driving force behind building their very own facility in Luton is close to fruition!

Also the hard work and dedication of the young people involved must be commended! You know who you are... Even if you have only been along to one meeting we still appreciate your contribution! And even if you have only just filled out one of our questionnaires, we still want to thank you!

Upcoming Events

~~6th October—YSG Meeting
Green Travel Plans
Roof terrace discussion~~

~~13th October—YSG Meeting
ICT
Security
Kitchen / Catering
Furniture, fittings and equipment~~

20th October—YSG Meeting
Design Update from A-Studio
General Arrangements
Elevations and externals

YSG Meetings are held between 4.30pm and 6.30pm on a Wednesday evening. For more information or to become a youth steering group member, please contact Leon or Salma on 01582 733418 or myplace.admin@valuton.org.uk

Below are a few massing models provided by the design team. The show the building from the top and bottom of Gordon Street and a 3D model of the interior!

