



Evesham Volunteer Centre Update - Issue 19, November 2009



Evesham Volunteer Centre

what facilities do you need?

- Does your group need to produce or print posters or leaflets?
 - Do you need to do displays?
- Tells us what equipment you require or what artwork or publicity you need to produce.
- Evesham Volunteer Centre is looking into developing the facilities it has. Already available are a colour photocopier, scanner etc suitable for mass production
- Helen Gray 01386 40165**

Have you got TALENT?

A chance for you to perform
at an evening of entertainment

7.30pm, Saturday, 5th December
The Lenches Club

Comedy, Vocals, Music, Juggling, Magic etc

If you want to perform on the night contact
Jan Harrison on 01386 870847

AGE Concern and Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Revitaleyes

**A 10 week course of healthy lifestyle
activities for older people.**

Tuesday, 17th November

10.30am-12pm, Ferry View, Merstow Green

**If you are over 50, would like to meet new people,
come to the course and enjoy refreshments for free!**

For further details or to book a place phone

Maggie Parker on 0800 0086077

Worcestershire Infrastructure Consortium

Working for a stronger voluntary sector by:
strengthening capacity, improving performance;
increasing volunteering; improving skills etc. Evesham
Volunteer Centre is a member of this consortium.

More details: www.winc.org.uk

Evesham Volunteer Centre

District Conference - a special event

celebrating the value of the voluntary sector in Wychavon

6-8pm, Wednesday, 24th March 2010

Civic Centre, Pershore

Highlighting achievements of Wychavon Rural Reach
Project and the changes and developments taking place;
the work of the individual organisations of Wychavon
Community Action Partnership; and the efforts of
volunteers and vcs groups throughout the district.

Further publicity to come!

Code of Good Practice

The Worcestershire Partnership brings together local government, public services such as health, learning providers, police and probation, voluntary and community organisations and local businesses within Worcestershire. In order to tackle issues that affect the quality of life of Worcestershire residents, the partnership works together, sharing ideas and pooling resources.

The Worcestershire Compact that was signed in June 2006 provides a framework for the way the statutory and VCS organisations to provide services together in order that the people of Worcestershire receive better services. The Compact is designed to ensure respect and equality between different organizations by providing a code of behaviour and lays responsibilities on each side.

Commitment by Voluntary and Community Sector Partners

In response to the Key Principle we as partners in the voluntary and community sectors commit to:

- Use infrastructure organisations and networks to encourage participation in consultations and to streamline the consultation process.
- Consulting, whenever possible, service users, carers, volunteers, members and supporters; where this is not practicable or appropriate, to indicate that they are responding on the basis of their accumulated knowledge and experience of working with the groups concerned.
- Take into account the specific needs, interests and contributions of groups that are hard to engage.
- Ensure that information presented to public sector bodies is accurate and that any research undertaken has been conducted in an objective and unbiased manner.

To find out more about this contact:

Helen Gray on 01386 40165 or

manager@eveshamvolunteers.org.uk

www.eveshamvolunteers.org.uk

Funding Support

Does your group need funding to run activities or set up something new?

Contact us to discuss:

- What you want to do
- What opportunities there might be for you
- How to complete application forms
- Or to check draft applications

Do you have an email?

Information on grants does get sent out by email, if it isn't timely for the news sheet. So if you do have an email address please make sure that you pass it on.

Clair Chittenden

01905 799569 or info@wcap.org.uk

BT Connections

Apply now for a laptop and broadband connection.

If you are a community or charitable Organisation that is looking to extend your work through use of the internet and ICT but don't have the means, apply for an award.

What is BT community connections?

It is an award scheme which enables community or charitable organisations to get on line and make the use of information and communication technology (ICT). Groups can apply for a laptop and a year's free broadband connection and we have more than 1,000 award packages to give to groups who can demonstrate how an award will benefit their work and community.

Who should apply?

Almost any organisation, working in any field of community benefit can apply for a laptop and a year's free broadband.

To apply:

To find out more simply log on to **www.btcommunityconnections.com**

- Complete an online application form or print a postal application form.
- Call **0845 257 6792**
or write to

**BT Community Connections,
PO BOX 6919 London W1A 8UX**

if you don't have internet access to request an application form.

County Council Voluntary Sector Grants

Community Leadership for Health Fund - Each County Councillor holds a grant for improvement towards Health, the size of their budget is dependent upon Area Needs. Please bear in mind that you are required to make contact with your County Councillor in the first instance before an application is submitted. The Deadline for applications is 31st March – the guidance is to submit at the earliest convenience.

Health Improvements Fund - The Third Round of the Health Improvement Fund opens on the 30th November. Priority will be given to projects targeted in areas of the County where health is poorest (Health Hotspots). The PCT who manages this fund are particularly interested in receiving bids which focus on; *Teenage Pregnancy, Alcohol Support Services, Healthy lifestyle activities for older people*. Round 3 closes at **4pm on Friday 29 January 2010**. This is the FINAL opportunity to apply for funding of up to £75,000. All applicants for Round 3 will be notified of the outcome whether successful or not by late March 2010.

Positive Activities Grant Fund for Children and Young People - In addition to the Community Leadership for Health Fund, County Councillors also receive a small budget for 'Positive Activities' within their local ward. This application is now open and closes for applications on 31st March 2010. Applications need to be made direct to the Local County Councillor.

LEADER Programme - The Leader programme is now open for Expression of Interests and can fund projects up to £75,000 over the programme lifetime, which runs until end of March 2013. There is no lower limit, though projects looking for under £2,000 may find the application process not worthwhile progressing with. Eligible projects need to meet criteria such as *helping rural people to engage in their communities or improving access to facilities in isolated areas*. Projects could also improve *social inclusion through recreational opportunities or protect and realise the potential of the natural and built environment*. Rural parts of Wychavon are eligible for the scheme and a Local Action Group has been set up to oversee the project. Any organisations that are interested in applying for funds can find more details on the County Council's website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/leader.

If you require any further information, application forms or county councillor details for the above grants please contact

**Wychavon Rural Reach's Clair Chittenden on
01905 799569 or info@wcap.org.uk**

GOOD PRACTICE

Working with Volunteers?

Has your committee considered the following? If you find you have marked a cross next to a question then information sheets and assistance are available.

Answer the questions and give a cross or tick according to your group's current situation, this will help you identify the areas you might need to work on.		
Does your group have a clear understanding of what it does?		
Do you have a clear idea as to the users of your group?		
If you need volunteers, are you clear about what your group needs them for?		
Does your group know what kind of person and the skills that are required?		
Do you have sufficient work for them, and are you clear about the number of hours the volunteer needs to commit to?		
Do you do publicity to find volunteers?		
Do you use a variety of methods to publicise your group and the need for volunteers?		
Do you have a budget to pay expenses, publicity costs etc for volunteers?		
Are there any limitations which might affect equal opportunities? Have you listed these?		
Do you know what responsibilities you have regarding your volunteers?		
Do you know what insurances you need to cover your group's activities and volunteers?		
Will volunteers deal with anyone on a personal level, have you considered confidentiality?		
Have you considered safety and do you and the volunteer know what risks exist and how to prevent them?		
Does the group have anyone responsible for its volunteers?		
Will volunteers be involved with children or young people?		
Will volunteers be involved with older people or vulnerable adults?		
Will volunteers do any driving for the group?		

If you'd like to find out more about any of these items please contact
Clair Chittenden on 01905 799569 or info@wcap.org.uk

Information sheets on all aspects of recruiting and a committee's responsibilities towards its volunteers are available on request.

Resources

The past two issues of the news sheet have covered the topics of Committees and Governance. Now, an information sheet on:

- Understanding the Project Cycle: Keeping Focused and Moving Forward—how can this help you with your activities?
How can you plan your year to follow the cycle to ensure that the committee is working in a proactive and sustainable way and not just reacting and responding to situations.
- Communication and Input with Volunteers and Service Users. How can involvement of volunteers and services users help your organisation?

To request information or if you would like to discuss any of these topics please contact **Clair Chittenden on 01905 799569 or info@wcap.org.uk**

Worcestershire Infrastructure Consortium

Annual Conference

Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions

**Worcester Rugby and Football Club
Pitch View Suite**

10am—3pm, Tuesday, 24th November

The chief Executive of National Association for Voluntary and Community Action will be discussing how delivery of front line services in Worcestershire is supported by infrastructure organisations. The other topic will be on the Importance of Voluntary and Community Organisations to the economy.

**For a booking form go to www.winc.org.uk/events
Or contact Jim Smith at wavocc@btconnect.com**

Grant Success

The member organisations of Wychavon Community Action Partnership are part of another funding success for the county.

Evesham and Pershore Volunteer Centres and Droitwich Spa & Rural Council for Voluntary Service together with the following partner organisations: Worcester Volunteer Centre, Community Action Malvern & District; Community Action Wyre Forest and Bromsgrove & Redditch Network have obtained an award for delivering a **Volunteer Management Project - Managing Our Volunteers' Experience (MOVE)** - throughout the county. MOVE is about improving access to relevant support in managing volunteers for public, and third sector agencies.

It will provide management skills and good practice advice to managers from small organisations, and be relevant to both paid and unpaid managers. It will establish local networks for volunteer managers in small organisations to embed good practice, provide workshops, training and outreach support.

Centralised Forum Events will be made more widely accessible for all types of agency. These will formalise learning opportunities and provide resources. For more details contact your local volunteer centre or council for voluntary service.

County Council wants to meet you

The Voluntary & Community Sector Unit Coordinator at Worcestershire County Council, Suzy James is keen to meet as many voluntary and community organisations as possible to gain a better understanding of the types of work and activities going on.

To arrange a visit please contact:

**Suzy James on 01905 766885
or email sjones12@worcestershire.gov.uk**

Contact Details:

Evesham Volunteer Centre

Manager, Helen Gray, 01386 40165

Email: manager@eveshamvolunteers.org.uk

Pershore Volunteer Centre

Manager, Kate Walton, 01386 554299

Email: katew@pershorevolunteers.org

Droitwich Spa & Rural CVS

Manager, Carol Pratt, 01905 779115

Email: admin@droitwichcvs.org.uk

Wychavon Rural Reach (A WCAP Project)

Development Worker, Clair Chittenden,

The Old Library Centre, 65 Ombersley St East, Droitwich, WR9 8QS.

Tel: 01905 799569

Email: info@wcap.org.uk