

News and information for Wales from:
Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Baltic House, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff Bay,
CF10 5FH t 029 2043 1700 f 029 2043 1701
www.wcva.org.uk t 0800 2888 329



Training first for voluntary groups - in every corner of Wales

Voluntary organisations across Wales are set to become more self-sufficient thanks to a comprehensive training programme aimed at strengthening an already flourishing body of organisations.

WCVA and the network of county voluntary councils and volunteer centres have set up Courses for Communities Cymru, a national training programme that will help organisations deal with such crucial issues such as finding funding and managing assets.

The programme launches in April and offers 54 courses - some are one-day and others half-day - which will be delivered by CVC and WCVA members of staff, with other organisations brought in to provide training in some of the identified specialist areas. Courses cost just £20 per day or less - putting them within the reach of voluntary groups, large and small.

WCVA Training Manager Kate Thomas said: 'It's apparent that while there's a wealth of training being delivered to the sector, there's little

consistency in provision of core training to support voluntary groups in setting up and developing their organisation, supporting staff, volunteers and trustees, fundraising, managing their assets and delivering better services.

'Courses for Communities Cymru will provide a quality-assured, affordable programme of courses in local and regional areas across Wales.'

The courses will be held all over Wales and cover such topics as formalising organisations, organising a committee, monitoring and evaluating the organisation's work, getting the best out of IT and working with others.

There will also be training sessions in effective communication skills, working with the statutory sector and volunteering, appointing trustees and management committee members, employing and managing people, and finding and managing money.

• For further information on courses, dates and locations, please contact your local CVC or visit www.coursesforcommunities.org.uk.

WCVA Charity law conference for May

The Wales Charity Law Conference 2008 will be held on Tuesday 13 May at the Angel Hotel in Cardiff.

This year's programme introduces a number of changes including more workshop choices and a panel discussion where delegates can submit written questions in advance or raise them directly from the floor.

Andrew Hind, Chief Executive of the Charity Commission will be presenting a keynote speech on public benefit, and the day also includes sessions on: campaigning and political activities; letting and hiring premises; The Charities and Companies Acts; websites and the law; an employment update, and much more.

Copies of the programme and booking form are inserted within this edition of Network Wales. To request further copies, contact the WCVA Helpdesk on 0800 2888 329 or email help@wcva.org.uk

Delegate places at this conference fill up very quickly and early booking is strongly recommended.

Communities First areas to find the right funding mix

WCVVA's Sustainable Funding Cymru is able offer bespoke training to Communities First officers who provide funding advice and development support.

If you help others to explore their funding and finance options, we can offer training on the various tools and techniques to assist you in your work.

Sustainable Funding Cymru can help you understand more about sustainable funding and how to assist others work towards financial sustainability.

Please register your interest by contacting the Communities First helpline on 0800 587 8898 or alternatively email enquiries@communitiesfirst.info, quoting SFC training.

As Sustainable Funding Cymru is supported by the Big Lottery Fund, this training will be offered at a subsidised rate of £10 per person.



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Payroll services work for sector

Is your organisation's payroll steadily increasing? Are you a new employer and about to take on your first employee? If so, you may like to find out more about WCVA - Pay Connect.

As a result of increasing changes in payroll legislation, many voluntary organisations and social enterprises are now outsourcing their obligations when it comes to paying their employees.

WCVA - Pay Connect is WCVA's payroll administration centre, which provides services for over 70 organisations. Many of these organisations outsource their entire payroll administration to WCVA - Pay Connect while some require smaller, more specific tasks.

WCVA - Pay Connect originated as an intermediate labour market (ILM) project managed by WCVA to give economically inactive people new skills, coupled with industry recognised qualifications in payroll administration.

Such has been its success that after the ILM project ended, WCVA - Pay Connect has continued to prosper as a free standing enterprise with clients the length and breadth of Wales.

Services include:

- Production of payslips and periodic reports
- Processing of starters and leavers (with associated P45s)
- Payment of salaries, NI and PAYE by BACS
- E-filing of annual returns
- Payroll Giving

WCVA - Pay Connect Supervisor, Peter Waddington commented: 'The new financial year begins next month, so now is a great time to get in touch if you'd like to find out more about our services.'

'We feel that with our experience in dealing with voluntary organisations we can understand, and show empathy with, the problems they face and think our pricing structure reflects that fact.'

If you are employing staff for the first time, or would like to find out more about WCVA - Pay Connect's services, please contact Peter Waddington on 01745 357588 for an informal conversation or e-mail pwaddington@wcva.org.uk.

More opportunities to catch the funding bug

Keeping up to date with the latest developments in funding can seem sometimes daunting. There are a number of funding and finance opportunities available but which are right for your organisation? Sustainable Funding Cymru provides practical training and support to voluntary and community organisations across Wales with an interest in developing a sustainable funding approach.

The initiative equips organisations with the skills and information to secure and maintain the resources they require in the long-term through diversifying their funding 'mix'.

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Bookings are now being taken for Sustainable Funding Cymru's spring/summer training programme by WCVA's helpdesk on 0800 2888 329 or help@wcva.org.uk

- Earning - how to develop a sustainable income base through trading and contractual work

13 May 2008, Aberystwyth

22 May 2008, Bridgend

- Loan finance and asset based development - how they can assist you to become more financially sustainable

3 June 2008, Dolgellau

12 June 2008, Cardiff

- Giving and public fundraising - increase your understanding of fundraising and tax-effective giving

15 April 2008, Caernarfon

24 April 2008, Newtown

To ensure Sustainable Funding Cymru's training is accessible to all, the Welsh county voluntary councils (CVCs) are now delivering these training courses in their local areas. Further information is available at

www.sustainablefundingcymru.org.uk/events

Sustainable Funding Cymru is a joint WCVA and CVC funding advice service supported by the Big Lottery Fund. This training is offered at subsidised rates for voluntary and community organisations operating in Wales.



Shake-up in volunteering is essential, says new *Manifesto for Change* report

Third sector organisations in Wales will be looking with interest at a recent report on the future of volunteering in England.

Although the recommendations of the most in-depth consultation into volunteering ever conducted in England do not apply to Wales, there will still be interest in the ideas and how they are implemented, or not.

The consultation has resulted in demands for a fundamental shake-up to improve volunteering for millions of people over the next ten years.

Red tape, unnecessary CRB checks and 'failure of the voluntary sector to genuinely respond to society's diverse needs' are discouraging willing volunteers, according to the Commission on the Future of Volunteering.

The Commission's report, *Manifesto for Change*, criticises some parts of the sector for failing to address problems encountered when enlisting for volunteer opportunities by disabled people, people with mental health problems, asylum seekers, refugees and homeless people.

The Commission says it heard evidence from some witnesses that disabled volunteers were being turned away from training opportunities.

It also discovered that in many groups, volunteers were underutilised and not provided with opportunities recognising or responding to their skills, and it recommends that organisations urgently review their ways of working to ensure that new, creative and flexible opportunities are available.

The Commission maintains that the Government could best support volunteering by adopting a position of 'non-interference' and resisting the temptation to develop new initiatives.

Instead, it should do all it could to remove barriers to volunteering, providing additional financial support to widen participation in volunteering and address the training needs of volunteers and those who manage them.

The Commission makes a number of recommendations including:

- Government should establish a working group to find ways of removing barriers to volunteering
- Basic training for all volunteers and volunteer managers is required, with the public sector trained in their understanding of the role of volunteering
- Volunteering champions should be developed regionally to encourage young people

Commission Chair Baroness Julia Neuberger said: 'Our vision is a society where volunteering is part of our DNA so that by giving time we enrich our own lives and those of others.'

'But, at the moment, too many people are being put off volunteering. Many people come forward to offer their time and skills, but red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy get in the way.'

WCVA's Director of Volunteering Sue Pickavance welcomed the report and praised Volunteering England for their foresight in commissioning it.

'Although it inevitably exposes some of the less positive aspects of volunteer management, it also highlights the overwhelmingly positive contribution made by voluntary organisations in providing opportunities for volunteers,' she said.

'The report carries with it the authority we need to challenge some of the more authoritarian and bureaucratic practices which have crept into volunteering in recent years.'

Grants news

Cadw has launched a new small grant scheme to assist listed places of worship in Wales with their ongoing maintenance work and to prevent the need for more expensive works to be carried out at a later date.

Grants of a maximum of £500 per place of worship are available in the current year for a wide range of minor repairs. Applications will be accepted from all religious denominations/organisations in Wales and the scheme will run until September, or when the budget is exhausted, whichever is sooner.

Further details are available from Claire Jenkins, tel 01443 336050, Claire.Jenkins@wales.gsi.gov.uk or visit www.cadw.wales.gov.uk.

Award for housing

The Val Feld Women and Homelessness Award is open to applications for 2008, this Award is intended to recognise innovation and new ways of responding to women in housing need throughout Wales.

Individuals and organisations undertaking research into the issues around women, housing and homelessness may apply. This year, the prize money has increased from £2,000 to £3,000.

The deadline for receipt of applications is 31 May 2008. Further details are available from www.sheltercymru.org.uk/shelter/home/valfeld.asp.



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Rewarding good work

Voluntary organisations across Wales will be put in the spotlight during 2008 thanks to the newly established *Network Wales Awards*.

The *Network Wales Awards*, supported by Class Telecommunications, were launched at WCVA's annual conference. They have been set up to showcase the work of the third sector and provide national recognition for outstanding achievements.

Individuals can nominate their own organisation for an award and can also nominate other organisations in separate categories. Each nominated organisation will receive a certificate of commendation and the winners will be presented with an award at WCVA's annual conference dinner in 2008. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 19 September 2008.

To receive a nomination form for the *Network Wales Awards 2008* please contact the WCVA Helpdesk on 0800 2888 329 or visit www.wcva.org.uk.

Book your space in Sbardun today!

This summer, WCVA will be hosting Sbardun, the voluntary action centre at the Cardiff and district Eisteddfod to be held during the first full week of August. WCVA members will have received a flier advertising the pavilion and we hope that this year we will have a vibrant space which will be a showcase for local and national groups wanting a presence on the Eisteddfod field.

Over the years we have welcomed politicians, personalities and performers to Sbardun and this year, the guest speaker for the opening event will be First Minister Rhodri Morgan.

For more information on joining us in Sbardun, please email sbardun@wcva.org.uk.

Making faith communities count

The population of faith communities in Wales is continually changing. While some historic Christian denominations are closing buildings, there is growth in some newer denominations and the number of non-Christian congregations continues, especially in urban areas.

A recent survey identified over 4,400 faith communities in Wales and over two thirds of them provide services for people in their local community. 1,400 people are employed and over 42,000 volunteers give their time to provide these activities. Faith communities also provide over 2,400 places for other groups to meet, welcome 2.5 million tourists each year and contribute over £102 million to the Welsh economy.

These figures are found in a new report *Faith in Wales: Counting for Communities* which was launched in Cardiff on 11 March. The research, which included all the main faith groups in Wales, was welcomed by Rhodri Morgan, First Minister for Wales, who said: 'Faith communities have played a key role in the history of Wales and even today offer a range of vital services which complement and enhance the work of government. It will provide a basis for further cooperation between the Welsh Assembly Government and faith communities in delivering our common objective of a Better Wales for all.'

The research was led by Gweini, the Council of the Christian voluntary sector in Wales, in partnership with WCVA. It was funded by the Welsh Assembly Government New Ideas Fund, Lloyds TSB Foundation and the Department for Communities and Local Government through the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund, administered by the Community Development Foundation. Copies of the report are available on the websites of Gweini and WCVA (www.gweini.org.uk or www.wcva.org.uk).

The next editions of this WCVA national supplement will be available at the end of May, July, September and November 2008.



Data Protection Act 1998 Contact details of all recipients of the *National Supplement* are held and processed by WCVA on computer. The information is used by WCVA for the monitoring and promotion of the voluntary sector in Wales. Contact details are disclosed to third parties for the purposes of assisting this promotion.