

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



Young people giving back to the community via volunteer scheme

Communities across the country are becoming better places to live, thanks to a pioneering grants scheme helping young people develop social skills.

The Millennium Volunteers (MV) programme is supporting young volunteers to in turn support young schoolchildren, older people and young offenders – as well as helping them gain skills and qualifications.

MV is delivered in Wales by WCVA, in partnership with Council for Wales Voluntary Youth Service, on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Encouraging young people to sign up to a wealth of community activities, the programme recognises volunteers' commitment with a National Assembly-backed award, signed by First Minister Rhodri Morgan.

The latest Millennium Volunteers awards went to Pembrokeshire YouthBank, Heolddu Comprehensive School, Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Scout Council, The Hideout and Carmarthenshire Youth Offending Service.

Millennium Volunteers in Port Talbot are part of a team helping to make a significant difference to the lives of young people in their local community.

At the Hideout young people's resource centre for 11-21 year olds, MVs volunteering as Youth Information Workers share their skills and experiences through informal work with young visitors, as well as developing and delivering educational workshops that reflect their interests.

They also support weeknight drop-in sessions which provide a safe, friendly and welcoming environment; activity and holiday programmes that include extra drop-in sessions; arts and crafts, sporting activities and trips; help deliver Personal Social Education lessons in local schools; and represent the needs and views of young people and volunteers on the Hideout's Youth Advisory Group.

Information on the next round of Millennium Volunteers grants is available from Leah Doherty, Millennium Volunteer Coordinator, on 029 2043 1763, or e-mail ldoherty@wcva.org.uk.

Catch the funding bug at our new website!

Voluntary groups anxious about the impact of declining funding can now access a new resource to help them secure a sustainable future.

Over the summer months, sustainable funding team members at WCVA have been busy bugs, preparing a new website that provides practical information for voluntary organisations in achieving long-term financial sustainability.

The website – www.sustainablefundingcymru.org.uk – offers advice on a range of funding options and guidance for organisations looking to develop entrepreneurial ways of generating income.

'With the decline of European and possibly other funds, voluntary organisations are now seeking alternative sources of income', said Sara Carroll, Funding Advice Officer at WCVA.

'The aim of the website is to introduce voluntary organisations to the idea of sustainable funding and provide a one-stop shop on the various funding options available.'

Visitors to the site will be able to download information on:

- Business and strategic planning
- Preparing a sustainable fundraising strategy
- Grants – fit for funding

- Giving and public fundraising
- Loan finance
- Trading
- Procurement and public service delivery
- Asset based development

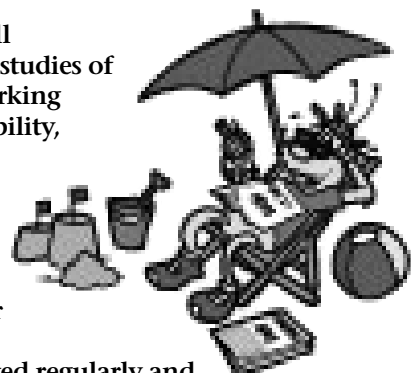
The website will also provide case studies of organisations working towards sustainability, regular news updates, details of various training courses and signpost visitors to further sources of help.

It will be updated regularly and organisations will have the opportunity to join an e-mail list to subscribe to a free monthly funding newsletter.

Sustainable Funding Cymru is a WCVA project supported by the Big Lottery Fund.



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WCVA responds to proposed NHS measure

WCVVA has submitted a brief response to the NHS Redress Committee's consultation on the proposed NHS Redress (Wales) Measure.

The response challenged the statement in the explanatory notes for the measure that there would be no impact on the voluntary sector. On the contrary, it is suggested that this measure will have a significant impact on a wide-range of independent advocacy, advice and support services within the voluntary sector.

These are likely to be the first source of help and guidance for many potential complainants, including those who are most vulnerable, those who are unwilling to engage with statutory bodies or private sources of advice.

The response recommended that a detailed assessment of the likely impact on independent advocacy and independent advice services should be undertaken to ensure that have the necessary training and capacity to respond to requests for assistance as a result of this measure.

New website offers one-stop shop for trustee guidance

Trustees of voluntary organisations now have a single, specialist source of information and guidance after the recent launch of WCVA's new 'Trustees and governance' website.

The website aims to become a central outlet for information on all aspects of governance, as well as providing a platform for Trustees to share knowledge and seek help via the forum and feedback tools.

The site contains trustee and governance related news and articles, and signposting to a range of helpful resources.

Also featured are details of relevant training and events, and information on trusteeship opportunities.

The site address is www.trusteewales.org.uk and if you have any queries or would like to discuss content, please contact WCVA Legal Services Officer Enrico Carpanini on 029 2043 1779 or email ecarpanini@wcva.org.uk. For other information please contact the WCVA Helpdesk on 0800 2888 329.

Membership increase for new alliance

The Long Term Conditions Alliance Cymru held an open meeting last month in order to learn more about the ways in which it could help people with long term conditions and the organisations that represent them. The meeting was well attended by representatives from charities, Alliances, WCVA and the Welsh Assembly Government.

The meeting had presentations from Andrew Misell, Secretary of the Long Term Conditions Alliance Cymru, David Pink, Chief Executive of the Long-term Conditions Alliance UK, and Angela Donaldson a founding trustee of the Long Term Conditions Alliance Scotland. Their presentations were highly motivational and most clearly illustrated the way in which organisations can work together on a broad range of issues for mutual benefit.

Following this meeting the Alliance has seen an unprecedented increase in the numbers of organisations applying for membership. Further to this the Alliance has elected a new Board of Trustees who will meet early in September to discuss a more detailed work plan for the next 12 months. Membership is open to any voluntary organisation

which works to meet the needs of people with long-term medical conditions on an all-Wales basis. In this context a long term medical condition is defined as one of prolonged duration, generally longer than a year, which may affect any aspect of a person's life. Symptoms may come and go. Usually there is no cure but there are often measures that can be taken to maintain and improve quality of life.

A recent survey of the current membership indicated that existing members had already experienced a range of benefits from being members of the Long Term Conditions Alliance including; better networking opportunities, access to lead Civil Servants working on the Chronic Conditions Framework, an invaluable support and information exchange network established through meeting and sharing experiences with other members and a marked increase in ability to influence health policy and drive. Membership of the Alliance is free of charge.

Any organisation that would like to be involved with the Alliance can find out more by contacting the Alliance's Development Officer, Kate Cabbage, kcabbage@wcva.org.uk.

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Age discrimination publications launched following important legal change

In October 2006, a sea change in discrimination laws took place. Employers are no longer able to use a person's age to discriminate against them.

It is now illegal for companies and organisations to treat employees and job candidates differently because of their age. It is also illegal to deny training and education to older people.

The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations Act 2006, which covers England, Scotland and Wales and the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations (Northern Ireland) Act 2006, bans age-specific job adverts and decisions about employment based on age.

Two publications by Dr Tamara Lewis are available from Help the Aged in Wales which provide a general introduction to age discrimination law and how to recognise potential cases.

'How to recognise cases of age discrimination: an adviser's toolkit', is a comprehensive 130 page

bilingual book, available from Help the Aged in Wales for just £3.91, to cover postage and packing, or you can make an appointment to collect copies in person from our office. Also available as PDF files to download for free in Welsh and English from the Help the Aged website at:

http://www.helptheaged.org.uk/ency/Campaigns/FightingAgeism/AgeDiscriminationInEmployment/ci_agelegwork2_290906.htm

'How to recognise cases of age discrimination: a guide for workers', available as PDF files to download for free in Welsh and English from the Help the Aged website: http://www.helptheaged.org.uk/ency/Campaigns/FightingAgeism/AgeDiscriminationInEmployment/ci_agelegwork2_290906.htm

To order a hard copy of 'How to recognise cases of age discrimination: an adviser's toolkit', please contact infocymru@helptheaged.org.uk with the words 'Adviser's toolkit' in the subject line, or ring Help the Aged in Wales on 029 2034 6550.

Wales TUC's two-year project to promote equality in the workplace

Equal at Work supports trade unions, employers and employees to promote equality in the workplace through the development of tailored training, seminars and resources, including a website and campaign materials, and by encouraging the development and sharing of good practice by running pilot projects.

The project covers all six equality strands of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation and religious belief, and was set up to help address the 'advice desert' in Wales, with respect to providing accurate information and support services for employers and employees regarding discrimination and equality in the workplace.

The Equal at Work project is a two-year project, funded by the DTI and run by the Wales TUC in partnership with the equality commissions.

Equal at Work pilot projects are a unique opportunity to receive free support, advice and training to enable your organisation to tackle any equality issues in the workplace or to improve your general policy and practice. Outcomes such as increased productivity and motivation of staff,

reduced risk of litigation, and a better reputation as an employer and service provider of choice can be achieved.

Examples of pilot projects could include: developing and implementing flexible working and family friendly policies to ensure best use of all staff; assessing training and support needs to improve workplace skills; and designing an equal opportunities policy and training that ensures compliance with legislation.

If you would like to know more about how Equal at Work can support your workplace then please get in touch with Equal at Work Project Officer, Natasha Hirst, on nhirst@tuc.org.uk or Textphone: 18002 029 2072 9235, or visit www.equalatwork.org.



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Revised community strategy guidance - a Welsh Assembly Government consultation

In the guidance being consulted upon by the Local Government Strategy and Performance Branch, there is heavy emphasis on community engagement and consultation and on integrated citizen-centred services.

There is an important section on the third sector, which says that 'the third sector has a crucial role to play in improving the quality of life for local communities through its expertise in effectively engaging citizens, services users and potential users; through service design, commissioning, procurement and evaluation; through joint delivery partnerships; through contributing to a mixed economy of service provision and through engagement in scrutiny and review of services'. It is important for the third sector to respond to the consultation in order to ensure that it has a strong position in Local Service Boards, citizen engagement and service provision under the community strategy.

According to the guidance, a community strategy is 'the long term strategy for the area and all its population'. Once adopted, this revised statutory guidance will replace the existing guidance issued in 2001. This revised guidance reflects lessons from many sources: including those that have emerged during community planning to date; the findings of the Beecham review; related consultations such as those on Local Service Boards and the work of a number of Task and Finish Groups.

The framework set out within the guidance provides the structure for the delivery of key national and local policy priorities - the community strategy establishes the 15 year vision for the area; the Local Service Agreement will prioritise and set out the shared public service delivery improvements to be delivered and how these will be achieved; and the Local Service Board will drive the whole process.

As part of this consultation, the Welsh Assembly Government is also seeking your views on the possibility of inviting the National Assembly for Wales to legislate to create a duty on local public sector partners to co-operate in developing and delivering community strategies. Please note, however, that this is subject to the Assembly acquiring the necessary powers in the current Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill.

In terms of the scrutiny proposals the National Assembly for Wales also intends to seek Measure Making Powers to bring forward proposals to reform scrutiny arrangements, these will be subject to a separate consultation but given their likely impact on community strategies the Welsh Assembly Government would be interested in your initial views now.

The consultation document on revised guidance for community strategies is available at:
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/localgovernment/partnership/commstrategies/?lang=en>.

The Assembly Government would be grateful for your comments on the full draft of the guidance, the potential duty to co-operate and the specific questions raised within the documentation by Friday 23 November. Please could you send your response by email to communitystrategies@wales.gsi.gov.uk or by post to: Community Strategies, Local Government Strategy and Performance Branch, Department for Social Justice and Local Government, Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park 2, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ.

WCVA is also keen to take account of your views in its own response, so please let Timothy Day, Director of North Wales and Policy, have any comments by 23 October 2007, email tday@wcva.org.uk.

The next editions of this WCVA national supplement will be available at the end of November 2007 and January, March and May and July 2008.



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