

VANS In-Step Newsletter–Sept 2009–14th Edition

Welcome to the fourteenth edition of the In-Step Newsletter brought to you by Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS).

Are you or your group in need of any additional support or help? Maybe just feel a need to run something by a third party outside your own organisation? If you do feel in need, please feel free to pick up the phone or send us an email. VANS is here to support you.

Quick Survey Time!!

Have you or your group been affected by the so-called “Rain Tax” for surface water drainage? If so we would like to hear from you. Please get it touch.

VANS News and Events

Voluntary Action North Somerset is looking for a NEW CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Starting in October 2009 you will take over from Trevor Jones who has successfully led this charity in building a strong reputation amongst the voluntary sector organisations it serves.

We are looking for someone with vision, commitment and experience who will take us on to the next level of performance and delivery. If you want to combine your expertise in governance and leadership with the important task of providing the very best support to the voluntary sector then we want to hear from you.

For an information pack go to: www.vansweb.org.uk or ring Donna Cleeve on 01934 410192

In-Step Training

Places for the below events are limited in number. They are strictly allocated on a first come first serve basis for members of the voluntary and community sector serving North Somerset. Maximum of two people per group. Book early to avoid disappointment. Places booked by fully refundable £10 deposit.

Business Planning – Thursday 1st October (9.15am-3.30pm)

Equality & Diversity – Thursday 22nd October (9.45am-3.30pm) **two places left**

Emergency Life Saving First Aid - Wednesday 28th October (10am-Noon)

First Steps to Monitoring & Evaluating Outcomes – Wednesday 4th November (9.30am-4pm)

Time Management – Taking Control of your Workload – Friday 13th November (9.30am-3.30pm)

All of the above events take place at the Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare.

For further details and booking forms please call Justin Parsons on 01934 410192, or by email justin.parsons@vansmail.org.uk. Or write to us at VANS, The Badger Centre, 3-6 Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare, BS23 1JY.

Voluntary Sector Forum & Funders' Fair & VANS AGM

Monday 30th November. Please try and keep this date free, as we would like as many of our voluntary and community sector colleagues as possible to join us.

At the Voluntary Sector Forum, Phil Suter of the Audit Commission will be on hand to reveal the results of the Comprehensive Area Assessment. He will be joined by Dave Ostry, Consultation Officer with North Somerset Council.

Our last Funders' Fair remains one of the most popular events that we have run. The current financial climate makes funding more critical than ever. A chance to meet with representatives from some of the major funding organisations, pick up top tips from our experienced funding team, and of course network and share best practice with sector colleagues.

And to make it a "triple header" we will also have our AGM: three for the price of one. More information to follow on timings, but we can confirm the location to be the Campus, Locking Castle, Weston-s-Mare. Watch this space or check the VANS website www.vansweb.org.uk.

In-Step Outreach Events

Voluntary Action are still on the road as part of a year long "tour" which will endeavour to take in most of North Somerset.

All events take place between 10am and 1pm and are "drop-in" style. Just show up and we will do our best to help you and your groups. So if you need volunteers (or want to volunteer), or if you need funding and development advice, come and see us.

Further drop-ins scheduled for later in the year include:

September 14th – Pill Resource Centre

September 16th – Nailsea Town Council, Church House

September 28th Healthy Living Centre, Weston

October 8th – Hangstones Pavilion, Yatton

Local News and Events

Elvis Johnson-Idan – The team at VANS were sad to hear the news of our much-respected colleague Elvis, who lost his battle with leukaemia last month. Our condolences to his family. There will be a memorial service and celebration of Elvis' life on Saturday 3rd October. It will take place at the Boulevard United Reformed Church in Weston-s-Mare. Please get in touch with quentin.isaac@srec.org.uk or 01934 414455.

Securing Homes: Action Against Burglary is a Home Office programme that aims to keep homes safe from burglary. Securing Homes is about delivering advice, support and reassurance to people that there are simple steps to take to protect their home. Free home security training and burglary prevention information is available for organisations and handypeople who provide practical home security to groups vulnerable to burglary, such as: older people, low income groups, students and young adults. This free training is coming to Bristol on September 23rd (for employed and paid staff) and on 5th November (for volunteers). You can register here <http://wwwFOUNDATIONS.uk.com>.

The Multicultural Friendship Association (MUFA) are holding their AGM at 6pm on Friday 25th September. The venue is Weston Cricket Club, Devonshire Road. For further information please contact Miriam Robertson of SREC on 01934 414455 or email miriam.robertson@srec.org.uk.

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning takes place on the 25th September. You can be a part of it and help the lives of those living with cancer by joining in. Our friends at Preanes Green Resource Centre are taking part. <http://www.preanesgreen.org.uk> or call 01934 529733.

Amnesty International's Weston-s-Mare group will host an evening with John Penrose MP. He will be speaking on "Human Rights and the Individual at Home & Abroad." This takes place at the Salvation Army, Carlton Street, 7-30pm on Wednesday September 23rd. Those interested in attending are invited to first phone Robin on 01934 517425 or John on 01934 517850.

The Black and Minority Ethnic Forum for North Somerset has launched a busy schedule of events between now and the end of the year. The next one is: Tuesday 22nd September @ 10-30. Presentation on Indonesia by Triliria Newbury. This takes place in the Weston Room at the Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare.

For further details on all of the above contact the Forum on 01934 414455 or email quentin.isaac@srec.org.uk.

DIY Community Workshops Open Day

On Wednesday Sept 23rd 2009 between 11 and 3pm.
BW Estates, Oldmixon Crescent, WSM BS24 9BA

There will be sample workshops/demonstrations in Pottery, Art and DIY. Anyone who is interested in learning a new skill is welcome to come along. Any local voluntary or community groups looking to raise their profile are welcome to have leaflets and posters on display at this event.

If you would like more information please tel 01934 614288
or email diygroup@dsl.pipex.com.

Clevedon Senior Citizens' Forum

If you are over 50 and interested in joining a group of friendly people to discuss and hear the latest news on relevant issues, listen to interesting speakers and enjoy social activities, then contact Ursula Marks on 01275 874296 or email ursulamarks@tiscali.co.uk.

One Day Future Financing for the Third Sector Event

This takes place on September 30th at the Albemarle Centre in Taunton and is hosted by Black South West Network. It is designed to raise awareness of the alternative sources of funding available to the voluntary and community sector.

It is free of charge to attend. For further and booking info contact BSWN on 0117 9396648.

Faithnetsouthwest hold their AGM and Conference on the 6th of October. It takes place at the Catholic Centre, The Mount, Taunton from 10am until 3.30pm. For further info or to book alison@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk or phone 0117 304 2298.

EACH's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 7 October 2009 from 4:30-6:30pm at Crown Prosecution Service, 2nd Floor, Fromsgate House, Bristol BS1 2QJ.

There will be a headline address by Barry Hughes, Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS Avon and Somerset.

Buffet supper from 6:30pm. R.S.V.P. to: EACH, Office 27, 42 Triangle West, Bristol BS8 1ES or e-mail: info@eachaction.org.uk. Please indicate if you wish to attend for the buffet supper. For more information visit: www.eachaction.org.uk.

Domestic Abuse: basic awareness Friday 16th October at Partnership House, Worle Parkway 9:30-4:00

Aim: To give participants an opportunity to consider domestic abuse in all its forms and provide an opportunity to focus on this difficult aspect of society

To apply for a place on this free of charge course, contact Louise Branch louise.branch@n-somerset.gov.uk 01934 426343.

ACEVO are running a Risk Management Course in Bristol on the 13th November. Cost is £75 (members £60) and further information can be obtained by clicking here https://www.acevo.org.uk/index.cfm/display_page/ProfDev_Events/filter_pageing/2 or you can phone on 0845 345 8481.

National News and Events

Ecclesiastical Insurance is giving £1 to The Children's Society for every person clicks a button to make a small promise. You don't need to give any details, and pledges include driving more slowly & giving clothes to a charity shop. Donate for free at: [The Children's Society](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk).

The Third Annual DSC Social Change Awards have been launched. A chance to recognize those individuals and groups who have gone that extra mile to make a difference. Find out how you can nominate here http://www.socialchangeawards.org.uk/?dm_i=6S7,1NGG,N8MYB,571H,1.

The NCVO's Annual On Board Trustee Conference takes place on 12th October in London. All the information you need can be found here <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/events/latest/?id=13524>.

Volunteering England has produced a briefing paper on the Independent Safeguarding Authority and the Vetting and Barring System. Find it here <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/resources/goodpracticebank/Information/Safeguarding.htm>.

The CREATE Consortium would like to hear from community organisations interested in becoming Community Allowance pilot partners. The Department for Work and Pensions is running a [Right to Bid](#) scheme, under which the Community Allowance will create new jobs by enabling community organisations to pay local unemployed people to do part time, or short-term work that strengthens their community.

If you think your community organisation could successfully pilot this programme, tell the CREATE Consortium how and why by completing a proposal form. Completed forms should be emailed to [Naomi Alexander](mailto:Naomi.Alexander@dwp.gov.uk) by 17.00 on Thursday 1st October 2009. Naomi will acknowledge receipt of all forms by email, and if you would like to discuss any aspect of the pilot programme please call her on 07515 062 846.

To download the proposal form and for more information about the Community Allowance programme, including aims and objectives, schedules and guidance notes on how to complete the proposal form, [visit our website](#).

This programme has been brought together by funding received from the ChangeUp programme and delivered through West of England ChangeUp Consortium member organisations. ChangeUp is a government initiative, managed by Capacitybuilders, to strengthen the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors by encouraging and enabling the delivery of effective infrastructure services.

For more details on any aspect of this project or the contents of this email, please contact:

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