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Dates for SVS Mailing in 2009

Cut off date for articles	posting date
8 th June	29 th June
31 st Aug	21 st September
16 th Nov	7 th Dec

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SOUTHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SERVICES MAILING

Young Carers meet Children's Commissioner and Chief Executive of Southampton PCT to highlight the needs and issues of Young Carers



From LEFT: Bob Deans, Sir Al Aynsley-Green, Jessica Forrester, Pippa Haines, and Katie Wood



**Southampton Voluntary Services -
working in partnership for the future of the city**

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Allen Lane Foundation

The Allen Lane Foundation is a grant-making trust set up in 1966. The Foundation will usually award £500 - £15,000 in one off grants and £500 - £5000 in "repeated" grants for a maximum of three years. The Foundation is looking to fund projects which make a lasting difference to people's lives, reduce social isolation and discrimination and encourage social inclusion for minority groups. The fund does NOT make donations to individuals. Applications can be made anytime. Please visit www.allenlane.org.uk for more information.

Woodroffe Benton Foundation

The Woodroffe Benton Foundation makes up to 200 grants annually to UK charities in the areas of People in Need, Education, and Environmental Conservation. The Foundation gives preference to: financial assistance to those in need as a result of disaster or by reason of social and economic circumstances; the provision of care for the sick and elderly; the promotion of education; conservation and improvement of the environment. Eligible organisations must be registered charities based in the United Kingdom. Grants are normally in the region of £700-£1,000 and trustees meet quarterly to consider applications in January, April, July and October. Further details are available from the Foundation's Secretary, Woodroffe Benton Foundation, 16 Fernleigh Court, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 6NA, tel 020 8421 4120, email alan.king3@which.net.

The Yapp Charitable Trust

The Yapp Charitable Trust make grants to small charities to sustain their existing work with elderly people, children and young people aged 5 – 25, people with disabilities or mental health problems, people trying to overcome life-limiting problems of a social (rather than medical) origin such as addiction, relationship difficulties, abuse, or a history of offending. The trust also supports small charities' work in the fields of education and learning (including lifelong learning). Grants are only for small constituted charities whose annual expenditure is less than £60,000 and have been operating for at least three years. The Trustees meet three times a year to consider applications. Applications can be submitted at any time. Please visit <http://www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk/> for more information

SCC Health and Wellbeing Community Development Fund 2009/10

The fund supports community and voluntary organisations to deliver projects to improve health and wellbeing in Southampton's priority neighbourhoods.

Who can apply?

The fund is aimed at community and voluntary groups working to improve health and overcome disadvantage in the areas of most need in Southampton.

The fund is not to be used as revenue on a recurring basis but used to help start initiatives.

- Access to health services
- Dental Health
- Healthy eating
- Long term care needs
- Mental health
- Physical activity
- Promoting independence for vulnerable people
- Smoking cessation
- Substance misuse reduction
- Teenage pregnancy reduction

For further information please contact Healthy Communities Team on 02380 832913

Healthy Communities Team, Southampton City Council, Southbrook Rise, 4-6 Millbrook Road East, Southampton, SO15 1YG

- Awards for All will now be entirely funded by the Big Lottery Fund , awarding grants of £300 to £10,000 to local communities in 2009-2010: Website: [Big Lottery Fund](#)
 - Sport England will provide small grants for sports ranging from £300 - £10,000 Website: [Sport England](#)
 - Arts Council England will provide small grants through their existing 'Grants for the arts' programme, supporting awards between £1,000 and £100,000. Website: [Arts Council England](#)
 - Heritage Lottery Fund small grants will be provided through the existing 'Your Heritage' (£3,000 to £50,000) and 'Young Roots (£3,000 to £25,000) schemes. Website: [Heritage Lottery Fund](#)
- There are key changes so visit awards for all website for full details www.awardsforall.org.uk

Clore Duffield Performing Arts Awards -<http://www.cloreduffield.org.uk/page>

Organisations such as registered charities, youth groups, limited companies and schools that wish to undertake activities that enable young people aged 0-18 to experience the performing arts are eligible to apply for funding under the Clore Duffield Performing Arts Awards. This is a £1 million programme that will operate between 2005 and 2010. Eligible organisations can apply for funding of between £1,000 and £10,000. The deadline for the final round of funding is 16th September 2009.

Impetus Trust Grants Scheme http://www.impetus.org.uk/howto_apply.html

For charities that work with and want to improve the lives of disadvantaged people have the opportunity.. The Trust provides funding, capacity building and hands-on management support to small and medium-sized charities that are at a critical stage in their development. The support which is usually available between 3-5 years aims to ensure that charities are in a position to increase their impact upon the lives of disadvantage people. The investment package which Impetus offers is flexible but is most likely to be between £150,000- £300,000. Applications can be made at any time.

information from RAISE : New Grant Addressing Mental Health Issues For Prisoners <http://www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk/home.html>

From July 2009, the Trusthouse Charitable Foundation will start a three year themed grant which will fund projects addressing mental health issues for prisoners and ex-offenders. Organisations working in this field, should contact the Foundation for an initial discussion. They will then send details of how to apply nearer the time. The Foundation usually makes £2 million of grants per year with the average grant around £6,000 though they can range from £1,000 to £30,000.

The Elephant Trust

The Elephant Trust was created in 1975 by Roland Penrose and Lee Miller, with a view to developing and improving knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the fine arts in the United Kingdom. The Trust offers grants of up to £2,000 to artists and institutions (priority is given to small organisations and galleries) for new, innovative visual arts projects based in the UK. Larger grants may be considered, however, no grants are available for educational or other study purposes. The deadline for applications is **Tuesday 8 April 2009** and **19 June 2009**. Please send applications to Ruth Rattenbury, The Elephant Trust, 512 Bankside Lofts, 65 Hopton Street, London SE1 9GZ or emailed to ruth@elephanttrust.org.uk. For further details, please visit www.elephanttrust.org.uk/

Changes to the Voluntary Sector Support Team Drop in Service

The voluntary sector support team offers a Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4.00pm drop in service, which is open to anyone wishing to ask or speak to a member of the team in person or over the phone.

Unfortunately due to capacity within the team we are making some slight changes to the drop in service:

We will now be operating a morning to lunchtime service (9.30am – 1pm), Monday – Friday

If you have any questions or require assistance please make sure you visit or call the Voluntary Action Centre during the new time.

A thank you letter from Chris Hammond retired

Deputy Chief Executive

Dear Members & Colleagues,

Thank you all for making my final day with SVS so special, for coming along to my leaving do and giving me so many flowers, gifts and personalised thoughts which were tremendous and overwhelming. I can honestly say I have worked with an amazing bunch of people over the years who are so dedicated to their cause and often go that extra mile to make a difference. It is your strong courage and resourcefulness that I will remember and reflect upon the most if things ever get tough for me.

Looking back over a vary varied career with SVS I wish to thank all those who have supported and helped me achieve my goals. It is now time for new and young blood to take over the reins and I am sure that even though the goal posts will continue to change they will have the tenacity to duck and dive, keeping their strong convictions of what is right for you as members and the sector.

Just to inform you that I have not kept still since I left a couple of weeks ago. I have been to Spain to see friends and have a week of relaxation and attempted my first acrylic painting from the gift given to my by SVS Executive. I am pleased to say I was happy with the results. If I carry on improving you never know you might one day see me exhibit!!

It is sad, but this is my final farewell. I only now wish to say: Take care all of you and thank you all once again.

Regards,

Chris Hammond

Top Ten Tips for Surviving the Recession

Remember "Cash is King"
Manage your cash flow and don't spend money before you have it

Think Ahead
Planning for different scenarios is helpful, you need to be in a position to act quickly if things worsen

Funding Relationships
Review the relationships, perhaps funding can be brought forward or alternative sources of funding accessed

Review Projects -
consider withdrawing from projects which are not financially sustainable

Good Communication -
is essential for dealing with banks. They want to help where they can, but don't like surprises!!

Think Governance -
good governance & management will mean you are better equipped to adapt to change. Make sure you have the right people with the right skills

Professional Advice -
seek as soon as you might think you need it, advice may be crucial to your future!

Readdress Budgets & Forecasts -
try a rolling budget and forecast model to enable you to predict the future financial position of your organisation

Focus on Core Activities -
now may not be the time to direct resources and finances to new projects which in the short term may not be self funding

Review Restricted Funds -
ascertain whether donors/funders would be willing to allow their funds to be used on a more flexible basis

In Control Briefing

SVS organised an all day briefing for the voluntary sector about "In Control", the scheme for personalising health and social care whereby clients are awarded a budget with which to purchase their care. Speakers included Louise Close from In Control, who spoke about the national agenda, Kevin Brooks, SCC Transforming Social Care Manager, who spoke about the local picture and Ben Harrison, United Response, who outlined the challenges and opportunities facing organisations. The afternoon workshops gave the delegates a chance to unpack the issues further and pick up practical tips on preparing for In Control, these included understanding your client group and how services are priced.

Feedback from delegates has shown the day was well received. Particular issues raised from the day included how the care packages provided through In Control could remain flexible, how organisations could plan for an unsure future and how these new systems might work in practice. Notes from the event are currently being compiled and will be circulated to the delegates. SVS will explore organising similar events in the future.



Grants are available through two funding streams: A small grants scheme, which make grants of between £2,000 and £10,000; the main grants programme, which makes grants of between £10,001 and £300,000. Applications are accepted from a range of organisations such as voluntary and community groups, health agencies including hospitals and PCTs, schools, social enterprises, Parish and Town Councils etc. Applications to the Small and Main grants programmes can be submitted **at any time**. The programme will run to March 2015; with all projects having to be completed by March 2014. Local Food has been developed by a consortium of organisations, and is managed on their behalf by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT).

Please visit <http://www.localfoodgrants.org/> for more details.

Eco-Minds

'Ecominds' – Managed by Mind, this programme will fund projects across England that will help transform local environments and build the confidence and self-esteem of people with mental health problems. Grant Ranges: Small - up to £20,000; Medium – from £20,001 up to £60,000; Large – from £60,001 up to £150,000; Flagship – from £150,001 up to £250,000. Projects must: Have both a mental health and environmental perspective; Be submitted by an England based group; Be thoroughly planned and relevant to the environment; Involve people with direct experience of mental distress; Encourage community access, collaboration, and improve the environment and environmental sustainability; Have a budget under £250,000; Be delivered within five years. Applicants must: Demonstrate a genuine need for the project; Be able to develop a detailed financial plan, budget, and cash flow which will account for the money applied for; Have the resources to plan, develop, and manage the project - especially if it involves building work or buying land; Have the resources to compile basic legal documents; Have the skills to manage the project, develop a detailed timeframe including milestones, and deliver the scheme outcomes.

FAQ's are here: <http://www.mind.org.uk/ecominds/FAQ.htm>. For more information please visit: www.ecominds.org.uk or call the Changing Spaces Advice Line on 08453 671 671.

People's Millions – Big Lottery/ITV

The Big Lottery Fund has announced the latest project proposals in the fifth round of its Peoples Millions Programme, the competition where viewers decide who gets Lottery funding. The programme is open to voluntary and community groups, local authorities, schools, health organisations and social enterprises – a total of 60 projects across the UK will have an opportunity to win grants of up to £50,000 each, to support their project. Up to five awards (4 winners plus 1 bonus award) are available in for each of the following nine ITV regional news areas: Anglia, Central, Granada, London, STV North, STV Central, UTV, Wales and Yorkshire. Up to four awards (3 winners plus 1 bonus award) are available in each of the following six ITV regional news areas: Border Meridian (East of the region), Meridian (West of the region), Tyne Tees, West and Westcountry. The deadline for applications is the **15th May 2009**.

Please visit <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/> for more information.

Awards for All

Awards for All is a lottery-funded programme run in conjunction with the BIG Lottery, designed to distribute grants of between £300 - £10,000. Until now, it has been supported by the other Lottery distributors as listed below, but now they will be running their own small grants programmes. This means that enquiries regarding Awards for All be made on the BIG advice helpline 08454 102 030 or consult www.awardsforall.org.uk





BBC Children in Need funding applications - for application deadlines, how to apply, and further guidance visit the official website www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey

BT Community Connections Award Scheme

This scheme enables community and charitable organisations to get online. Groups can apply for a free laptop and a years' free broadband connection and award packages. For further details visit www.btcommunityconnections.com

Awards for Bridging Cultures - Celebrating Activities that Promote Dialogue Between Cultures

In 2008, iCoCo launched the Awards for Bridging Cultures (ABCs). Funded by the Baring Foundation, the ABCs reward local schemes and projects, run by grassroots, community and voluntary organisations, that help to build bridges between communities and cultures.

The ABCs will showcase this work and raise awareness of the wide range of activity on the ground. It will encourage applicants to share the learning from their schemes with other organisations. Commended projects and overall winners will receive cash prizes and an opportunity to make a short film about the project. There is also a new award for individual volunteers who have made a significant contribution to initiating or running these projects. All applicants will be invited to a one day learning conference and awards ceremony in London in December 2009.

The application process is short and simple. An independent panel of judges will assess applications.

Visit our web site www.bridgingcultures.org.uk or call the ABC team on 024 7679 5768.

The deadline for applications is Monday 14th September 2009.

LankellyChase Foundation <http://www.lankellychase.org.uk/index.htm>.

Following a review of its grant making operations, new guidelines for the next 5 years have been published. The Foundation will continue to seek applications from voluntary and community groups within the UK (with the exception of London and Northern Ireland) and concentrate its work on supporting projects that seek to promote social justice, highlighting unpopular causes. The Foundation intend to concentrate upon smaller charities, many of whom will have only a local or regional remit. The Foundation may consider applications from large national charities but support for those will be rare and limited. The areas that the Foundation will concentrate on are the:

- o Promoting excellence and exploring the power of the arts, Breaking cycles of abuse
 - o Promoting alternatives to custody, Seeking to restore troubled minds and lives
- Strengthening local communities and organisations.

The new guidelines will come into effect in April 2009. Applications can be submitted **at any time**.

Local Food Programme - Managed by Royal Society for Wildlife Trusts

The Local Food programme is a £50 million programme that will distribute grants to a variety of food-related projects to help make locally grown food accessible and affordable to local communities. Communities will benefit from improved health and well-being through exercise and better nutrition; strengthened local economies through the creation of social enterprises; and more sustainability through the better use of resources such as food redistribution and composting.

Southampton Interfaith Link: June 7th Annual Peace Walk - annual walk around places of worship in Southampton 12:45 at the Peace Fountain, all welcome

New Communities Website now has additional resources which may be useful for voluntary groups wanting to know more about new arrivals in Southampton: <http://www.sotonnewcom.org.uk/advice/services.html>

Launch of Hamwic Speakers Club

Hamwic Speakers Club have launched a new community based, not-for-profit Toastmasters club to help individuals overcome their inherent fears of public speaking. Everyone welcome free of charge. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month (except August) at Taunton's College. For further information please contact Ken or Margaret Amy on 02380 775354 or go to www.southampton-speakers.org.uk

South East Coastal Communities Individual Budgets project update

The project aims to work primarily with people and local communities in the City of Southampton to show that the availability of spending power with individuals can open up opportunities for economic development.

Why our project matters to voluntary and community sector providers

- As we work with people we will define what new services should look like, where they are needed and what the level of demand is.
- We will work to identify stakeholders who want to be involved in ownership and governance of social enterprises meeting their needs.
- Whilst this will include the "customers", it could also include existing community groups, members of the wider community, potential staff and existing VCS providers.
- We will identify economic opportunities and support people to develop enterprising responses.

For further information contact: Nathan Brown on 02380 630068

Neighbourhood Advice Centre,

Rope Walk, Derby Rd - If your organisation currently uses the Centre to see customers, please accept this as notice that the Centre will no longer be available for use as of 28th May. The work of the Neighbourhood Advice Team will be changing. Access to a new service via the Neighbourhood Advice Team will be by referral & appointment only. As of May 09 customers will need to meet a new referral criteria:

- Have a housing need
- Have a debt/money issue
- Have a welfare benefit issue
- Be a private tenant or owner Occupier

Clients not meeting the new criteria will be signposted elsewhere.

If you wish to discuss further please contact Alison Murley on 02380 833449

St Mark's Church Centre Archer's Rd Southampton

31 May - 3-5pm Cream Tea £3.50 inc tea/coffee, homemade cakes and scones w/jam and cream!

7 June - 11:30-12:30 Book & DVD sale

21 June - 1pm picnic, walk, & cream tea in the New Forest. Join for all/part of the event. More details on request. Barbara Foley on 02380333374 / 07592008424

"In Control"

"In control" is a system for self-directed support - a way that people can organise care and support they receive from their local authority. Both SCC and HCC are using this approach. Further info: <http://www.in-control.org.uk>

Halls for Hire

St Mark's Church Centre, Archer's Rd Southampton - good location, flexible rooms, excellent access. For further info contact Barbara Foley on 07592008424

The Gordon Hall, Brook Rd, Bitterne Recently extended, modernised and refurbished first floor Hall (dimensions 36ft by 20ft) for hire at reasonable rates in Bitterne. A small kitchen, together with the supply of central heating is included in the rate. Facilities for the less able, a lift and an adapted toilet are available.

For availability and sessional rates please contact Brian Foote on 023 8047 3272.



SOLENT SIGHT DAY 09

Launch of new annual event in Southampton



Solent Sight Day is an annual one day exhibition of visually impaired technology, services and products for people who are blind and partially sighted, and for professionals supporting and advising visually impaired people.

22nd May 2009 from 12:00pm – 4:00pm at the Holiday Inn in Southampton. For more information, how to get involved or sponsorship opportunities please get in touch with Vicki – support@southampton-sight.co.uk or on 02380 769882



Safe in Sound wins competition



Safe in Sound has been awarded a £2000 prize from Timebank's *Pitch Your Project* competition. The competition awards health & Wellbeing projects with innovative ideas for involving volunteers and is run in the style of TVs "Dragons Den", where an idea is pitched to a panel of experts.

Safe in Sound beat five other health projects to win the prize money, which will be used to re-brand and develop project resources, upgrade the website www.safeinsound.org and increase volunteering opportunities. To assist in these tasks the project is looking to recruit volunteers with experience in graphic design, web design and marketing.

Progress can be followed on the Safe in Sound blog on Timebank's website
<http://www.journeystohealth.org/>

Young Carers Project - staff changes

The Southampton Young Carers Project has recently undergone several staffing changes, whilst carrying out an audit and review of the project. Megan Marks has stepped up as Acting Team Leader. Shelley Diaper continues as part time Schools Outreach Worker alongside recently appointed Jo Payne. Our recently appointed Project Workers are Anna Hutchings and Sam Garrett, who will work alongside Kerry Spooner who is currently on maternity leave. We are a strong, professional team with a wealth of experience, knowledge and skills. We are motivated, enthusiastic and excited about the future of the project and look forward to working with some amazing young people!!!

Family Projects - Incredible Years parenting course

Family Projects has been running *Incredible Years parenting courses* for parents with children aged 2 to 8 years old. The course is a twelve week course with one two hour session per week. We have just completed our fourth course, where eight of the original ten starters completed the full course. So far nearly all the parents have come from the various groups that we run. Most of those attending have been women but we have had two fathers who were very welcome. Although coming from different areas of the city, parents have interacted well on the course and all have said they enjoyed it and would like to keep in touch with each other.

"There's definitely been changes in the whole family and all for the better."

"I felt that everyone was understanding and you were never judged. Everyone had input."

The course builds from positive, child led play up to problem solving and dealing with children's difficult behaviour.

"I'm going to try to be more positive and ask the kids what they think they should do instead of doing it for them."

"I'm seeing changes in my sons. There's a little light at the end of the tunnel. I'm amazed of the changes in such a short space of time. Thank you."



Local politicians must rein in commissioning officers, says NAVCA Chief, Kevin Curley

Taken from an article by Paul Jump, Third Sector Online, 23 March 2009

Councilors should stop small charities being sidelined, Kevin Curley tells Children England conference

Local politicians must rein in commissioning officers, whose use of "crude competitive tendering" has resulted in the unintended destruction of local organizations, according to Kevin Curley, Chief Executive of [NAVCA](http://www.navca.org.uk).

Curley described competitive tendering as a "very blunt instrument" to improve standards, highlighting recent cases in which [Home-Start](http://www.home-start.org.uk) organizations, which provide support to families, lost out to large national children's charities, [Women's Aid](http://www.womensaid.org.uk) refuges to generic housing associations and [Citizens Advice Bureau](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) to private companies.

"It is nothing short of madness to allow organizations like these to be extinguished in the name of European procurement regulations and competition law, and you can stop it happening," he said.

Local politicians, rather than large charities or private firms, were the villains of the piece, he said. "Leading councilors are often shocked at the consequences of procurement processes they have unleashed. Politicians should be deciding priorities and shaping local services, not letting the procurement process undermine their leadership role."

Government reconsiders rules for charitable incorporated organisations

By Tristan Donovan, Third Sector, 31 March 2009

Draft regulations were 'too close to company law'

The Government is to amend its plans for the rules on charitable incorporated organisations (CIOs) in time to introduce the new legal form in April next year.

Ben Harrison, Policy Manager, said the Office of the Third Sector would publish a summary of the consultation and a timetable for the introduction of CIOs next month.

He said April 2010 was a realistic start date, but it had not yet been decided if there would be a phased introduction of the new legal form.

At present, charities that are companies have to report to the Charity Commission and Companies House. CIOs will have the benefits of incorporation and report only to the commission.

GuideStar UK

New search engine that provides an online database of every registered charity in England and Wales. Each entry comprises a full annual report for the charity as well as detailed financial information.

The user of the service is empowered to find a charity working on a specific cause or in their local area.

For further information please visit www.guidestar.org.uk

CAF launches crisis helpline for charities that are worried about their financial viability. The helpline is available to any UK charity, regardless of size or affiliation.

Helpline: 08009 802000



IVF News from Southampton City Primary Care Trust (PCT)

IVF (in vitro fertilisation) is the fertility treatment that is most well-known. It means "fertilisation in glass", hence the expression "test tube baby". In the UK, one baby in every 50 born is conceived through IVF.

The South Central Specialised Commissioning Group (SCSCG) commissions IVF services on behalf of Hampshire PCT, Isle of Wight PCT, Southampton City PCT, Portsmouth City Teaching PCT, Berkshire East PCT, Berkshire West PCT, Milton Keynes PCT, Buckinghamshire PCT and Oxfordshire PCT.

At the moment the policies for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and Thames Valley (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire) are slightly different, so local people do not currently get the same access to IVF on the NHS.

Following results from local feedback, which found across the region the current policies are confusing and inconsistent, all nine PCTs in the NHS South Central region have undertaken a joint review of IVF policies.

The review of the policies is now in process with opinions being sought from local people, patient groups and stakeholders to ensure their views are properly reflected. The SCSCG will collate all the comments received and a decision on the next steps will be taken on 7 May 2009. The results will be presented in public to the Hampshire PCT Board on May 28, 2009.

The IVF discussion document along with other relevant information is available to view at www.southamptonhealth.nhs.uk/publichealth/access-to-ivf/

You can comment on the proposed new policy by the deadline of 17 April 2009 by sending your suggestions to public.relations@scpct.nhs.uk.

Bridging the Gap: Tackling Inequality and Delivering Fairer Health Outcomes for

All - is the forthcoming Public Policy Exchange Conference which will take place—**Wednesday 10th June 2009** at One Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London.

Underlining its commitment to achieving the national target and to further reduce health inequality beyond 2010, the Government has developed several new national schemes directed at improving health from within communities and has injected further funding and support into local strategies, including:

- £11m for the Communities for Health Schemes
- £2.5m for the Healthy Communities programme
- £5.5m for the 2nd wave of pacesetters, targeting diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular disease in disadvantaged areas.
- £30m for 9 healthy towns under Change4Life

With the ambitious 2010 deadline fast approaching, this timely conference; hosted by the *Centre for Parliamentary Studies*, provides an invaluable opportunity for local authorities, practitioners and stakeholders to assess how the PSA target for health inequalities can be met and also consider the longer term outlook for achieving fairer health outcomes for all. For further details, or to fill in the registration form, please see this event overview on the official website at www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events.



Improving support
for a stronger third sector

Capacity Builders launch Modernisation Small Grants Fund!

The aim of the Modernisation Fund – Small Grants Programme - is to help viable third sector organisations (with an income below £750k) to access specialist services in order to restructure and become more resilient and efficient in the economic downturn.

The programme will provide support to third sector organisations wishing to explore how merging or collaborating with other voluntary organisations might help them to become more resilient. It will also provide further support to help organisations buy legal, financial, employment and other support to further develop plans for merger or collaboration.

This £16.5m investment is one of a series of new funding programmes launched by the [Office of the Third Sector](#) in February 2009 aimed at managing the impact of the recession on the third sector.

Capacitybuilders believe that this important programme of support can be best delivered in partnership with members of local consortia and the Office of the Third Sector wants very much to use the knowledge and expertise that already exists within the sector

Process

For the first stage of the programme, organisations will be able to apply online for assistance from the programme via a unique [Modernisation website](#).

We expect promotional activity generated by the local delivery agents to be completed by June 2009 and the initial window for online applications for bursaries is currently planned to run until the end of that month.

**Please contact Philip Lee on
023 8021 6017 for further information or register your interest**

The 3 Voluntary Sector representatives, Mary Carnegie, Gulzar Sharif and Pete White, attended the first meeting of the newly formed **Southampton Partnership Policy Board** on 11.2.09 together with reps from other sectors who are –

Organisation Reps –

SCC – Cllr Alec Samuels (Chair)

Business Southampton – Malcolm Le Bas

Hampshire Police Authority – Cllr Jacqui Rayment

Southampton and Fareham Chamber of Commerce – Jimmy Chestnut

SCPCT – Dr Henry Slater

Partnership Reps –

Children and YP Trust – Cllr Peter Baillie

Communities and Renewal partnership – Jonathon Cheshire

Economy and Enterprise board – Cllr Royston Smith

Health and Well being partnership – Cllr Ivan White

Later Years partnership – Lynda Taylor

Safe City Partnership – Cllr Royston Smith

Southampton Heritage and Arts People – Stephen Foster

Observers –

SEEDA – Julia Pearson

SP Delivery Board – Brad Roynan

GOSE – Cathy Evans (apologies)

Also attending were Joy Wilmott Palmer, Henry Pavey and Natalie Hargreaves, SCC officers and Clive Webster, John Beer and Tim Levenson from SCC as guest presenters of key city strategies.

This initial meeting of the twice yearly Policy Board was very much a get to know session with presentations on the SP framework, the 2026 Vision and City Strategy, Local Area Agreements and the Comprehensive Area Assessment which will form the basis of the new assessment regime in the future for city public services. Also covered were the six major strategic plans which are currently being developed or refreshed and which will form the basis of future service planning and commissioning in the city. These are the Children and Young Peoples Plan, Economic Development Action plan, Health and Wellbeing Strategic Plan, Local Regeneration and Renewal Strategy, Safe City Annual Plan and 14 – 19 years Strategy – all of which are useful documents with which voluntary groups should familiarise themselves if they are interested in those areas of city life and are available on the SP website – www.southampton-partnership.com

At the monthly **SP Delivery Board**, Jo Ash, has continued to input views and issues on behalf of the wider voluntary sector including presenting a paper on the impact on volunteering as a result of the economic downturn which is an area the Delivery Board is monitoring closely. Conscious of the impact on relationships and families of unemployment and debt worries Jo also asked for emotional and relationship support to be considered as part of the preparation for retirement/ redundancy information package which is being offered, for example to Ford workers, on an interagency basis. In recognition of the role the voluntary sector will play in supporting and involving people through these difficult times we have been asked to prepare a short presentation for the next Policy Board on corporate and social responsibility and support to the voluntary sector during and post recession so if you have views or ideas you would like to contribute please let Jo or any of the reps know. Delivery Board also considered progress on Think Family, teenage pregnancy and NEETS, initial Place survey results and LAA progress.

New NHS Funding Available for Community Health Projects in Thornhill

Southampton City PCT has made £75,000 available this year for health projects in the Thornhill area. Unlike other funding programmes, here local residents have a real say on what gets funded.

Following a successful pilot of the *Your Health, Your Community, Your Vote* scheme last year (likened by many to TV's X-Factor) the Thornhill Community Health Group is holding a second event taking place on the afternoon of 11th July at Thornhill Infants School.

Local community and voluntary organisations and others are invited to submit applications for project ideas to be voted on by local Thornhill residents at this event.

Bids should be no larger than £10,000 – past experience suggests that smaller bids are usually more successful – and be able to demonstrate clear health benefits for local Thornhill residents. Applicants are strongly advised to develop their project ideas with the local community.

The application process is open from 1st May to 12th June and forms are available from:

Paula Windebank, *Thornhill Plus You* on: 023 8091 5401 or e-mail:

pwindebank@thornhillplusyou.co.uk

An evaluation report (and DVD) on last year's 'participatory' budgeting exercise in Thornhill is available from Southampton's Local Involvement Network (S-LINK) – event sponsors – who can be contacted on 08450 949497 or by e-mailing: southamptonlink@hapuk.co.uk

Friends of the Chapel



courtesy Will Temple and SCPCT

The Friends of the Chapel are exploring the best way to bring the Victorian Chapel into community use, with a particular emphasis on health education facilities. A committee has been formed to further these aims and trustees and other volunteers are currently being sought. If you would like to get involved or offer support please contact John Avery, Chairman, on 023 8063 8650 or visit <http://friendsRSHchapel.co.uk>

What is the CRB's Involvement?

The CRB will process applications for registering with the scheme. It will also feed any additional information to the ISA which is disclosed as part of a CRB Disclosure on anyone who is already registered with the ISA. Additionally, the CRB will continue to offer employers the option of criminal records checks to enable them to make accurate risk-assessments of employment candidates.

Will I need to have all my staff and volunteers who are working with Children and Vulnerable Adults registered with the ISA by October 2009?

No, In July 2010, individuals will be able to register with the ISA if they intend to work or currently work with children and/or vulnerable adults in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. From November 2010, it will be a legal requirement for individuals in this position to register with the ISA. The requirements to be registered with the ISA will be phased in over 5 years. No further details are available from the ISA at this Stage.

Will it be illegal to employ someone who is not registered with ISA?

From November 2010, it will be a legal requirement for individuals to register with the ISA if they intend to work or currently work with children/and or vulnerable adults in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Employers will be legally bound to check and confirm that the person they have engaged in 'regulated' activity is registered and has therefore been checked by the ISA.

Organisations will be given 5 years to ensure all current employees and volunteers are ISA – registered.

How will individuals apply to register with the ISA?

Individuals in England and Wales will apply to the CRB, through one of its Registered Bodies for registration with the ISA. Individuals in Northern Ireland will apply through AccessNI

Will the reason a person is barred also be available online at the same time an employer checks online for registration status?

No. For security reasons, this information would only be disclosed via a CRB Enhanced Disclosure if requested.

Will anyone be able to go online and check a person's status?

No. All information held by the ISA about individual applications and cases will be secure. Prospective employers are only able to check registration status if they have the explicit consent of the individual, along with a unique reference number and other personal data. The information online will not state if a person is barred and the reason for barring - it will only show whether they are registered. Non registration does not imply someone is barred and this should not be assumed (for example, they may never have applied, in which case they would not be registered).

Will the criteria for Standard and Enhanced CRB checks need to change as from 12 October 2009?

Yes, From 12 October, if you currently apply for standard CRB checks on those working with children and/or vulnerable adults you will be in future entitled to an enhanced CRB check. An enhanced CRB check will continue to be available to individuals who are not required to register with ISA, for example those working with the Gambling Commission. A Standard CRB check will be for other positions covered by the Exceptions Order 1975 to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 for example positions within the Security Industry and Financial Services.

New volunteering Opportunities**Independent Visitors Scheme**

The purpose of this scheme is to provide support to children who live in care and have no or only infrequent contact with their family. You will build up a meaningful long-term relationship and be a point of advice and friendship. Volunteers will aim:

- to visit and telephone or e-mail your matched child regularly and according to his/ her needs and wishes
- to befriend your matched child in order to give advice on everyday life and a shoulder to lean on and be a role model
- to be reliable, patient and trustworthy and committed for at least 12 months
- to support the child in addressing any concerns or complaints and helping to put their views across
- to work together with the child's carers and the Local Authority in the best interest of the child and encourage and support the child to seek help from professionals if they need it
- to organise activities which will suit your matched child and to have FUN and enjoy spending time with children



For more information contact: Independent Visitor Scheme Coordinator
Tel: 023 8083 3382 or e-mail: independent.visitors@southampton.gov.uk



Solent Mind Could you spare a couple of hours a week to help others achieve their potential, increase their confidence and at the same time benefit from getting a bit fitter yourself? Solent Mind's Community Wellbeing Project is looking for volunteers to help people who would like to do activities such as swimming, walking, cycling, gardening etc but lack the confidence to do them on their own.

As a Volunteer Activity Buddy (VAB) you will be providing a familiar, friendly face to someone who needs a bit of moral support. Hours are flexible depending on the activity and the individual's needs. If you are interested please contact Becky Spake at SVS on 02380 216016 or email: b.spake@southamptonvs.org.uk

Brendoncare Clubs are social clubs devoted to giving older people the opportunity to meet new friends, be entertained by a variety of speakers and entertainers, and enjoy club outings.



Are you free Wednesday mornings between 10-12? This is an opportunity to be sociable, welcoming and help older members of the community enjoy a few hours together each week. Whether it be helping to make the teas, having a chat or running various entertainment activities.

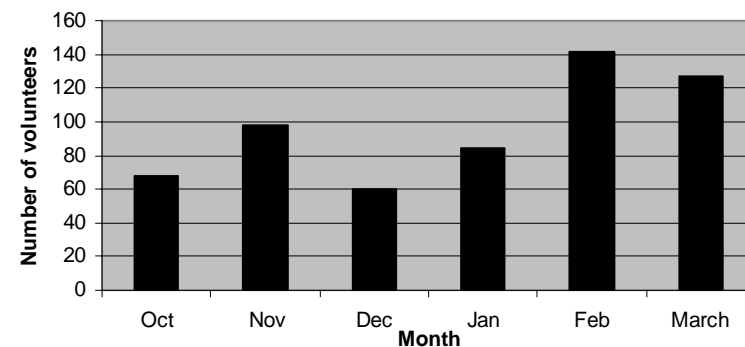
The group is for over 60s and they are looking for someone to help run the club with support from Club Hampshire. If you are interested please contact Becky Spake at SVS on 02380 216016 or email: b.spake@southamptonvs.org.uk



Volunteering and the Credit Crunch

As more and more people are finding themselves out of work, volunteering is fast becoming the option for many people who are looking to retain their skills, try out a new career path or get experience in a different sector. SVS has seen a clear rise in the number of volunteering enquires in the last few months. See below.

New Volunteers



Almost 90 per cent of volunteers believe volunteering has helped to boost their job prospects, according to a Community Service Volunteers survey released in April 09.

Volunteering provides people affected by the recession a chance to stay busy, maintain self-esteem, discover new abilities and also means that future employers won't see a gap in their CV. It seems that every cloud has a silver lining; in economic bust there seems to be a volunteering boom. For more information about how SVS can help you promote your organisation volunteering opportunities to potential volunteers please contact Becky Spake on 02380216016.

Volunteer Expenses

Any organisation that is serious about involving a diverse range of volunteers in the current climate needs to think about how they will reimburse expenses.

Why should your organisation reimburse volunteers? The reimbursement of volunteer expenses can help an organisation to meet its commitment to offering equal opportunities to all. The cost of travelling and a meal eaten out is significant to someone on a low income or who receives state benefits. Volunteer expenses should be built into all funding applications or budgets as part of the regular costs of a volunteer programme.

Tips on volunteering expenses

- Stick to "out of pocket" or actual expenses Money over and above out of pocket expenses is regarded as income by HM Revenue and Customs, and is therefore taxable.
- Guidelines on transport usage It is also reasonable to ask volunteers to come in by the cheapest reasonable form of public transport. It may be necessary for some volunteers to take taxis – because of disability, for example, so try to be flexible and budget for extra costs.

Use clear record-keeping ask volunteers to produce receipts, bus tickets etc. It makes sense to create a simple claim form that you can keep with copies of the documentation.



For more info go to: www.volunteering.org.uk



Updates on the new safeguarding and barring Scheme and planned changes from 12 October 2009

The Vetting and Barring Scheme is built on existing strong safeguards and when delivered will be the most comprehensive anywhere in the world. As such it is important that all elements are properly designed and tested before they are introduced. As the scheme has been developed there have been reassessments on how the Scheme would be delivered. It has been vital that the Scheme's elements have been properly designed, piloted and tested before the final introductions. Below are the most updated time lines and changes that we have been given information to share with you.

From October 2009

The creation of two new ISA barred lists, these lists will replace the existing List 99 and Protection of Children Act List (POCA) and Protection of Vulnerable Adults List (POVA).

Access to these new ISA lists will be available on request as part of Enhanced CRB check Eligibility for Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks will expand to include more employment and voluntary positions: such roles will be known as regulated positions.

Standard CRB checks will no longer be available for those working with children or the vulnerable. There is no change to the current CRB application form or application process.

From July 2010

Individuals will be able, via registration to Umbrella Bodies, to apply to the CRB for ISA-registration if they are applying to work with children and/or vulnerable adults in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

There will be a 5 year phased roll out for ISA registration for those individuals who currently work with children and/or vulnerable adults.

Employers will be able to express an interest in a person's ISA-registration and informed of any changes to that person's ISA-registration status.

The CRB will introduce a new application form to allow applications for ISA-registration and CRB checks to be made from the same form.

Employers can carry out free online checks of a person's ISA-registration status.

From November 2010

It will be a legal requirement for individuals to register with the ISA if they intend to work or currently work with children and/or vulnerable adults in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Some of your Questions answered

Is the CRB introducing a new application form from 12 October 2009?

No, you can use the existing application form up to July 2010, from July 2010; the CRB will introduce a new application form to allow you to apply for ISA registration and a CRB check (including ISA Check) on the same form.



Flexible Working

Plans to extend the right to request flexible working to parents of children up to the age of 16 will go ahead as planned. The right is to request; there is no actual right to obtain such changes to working arrangements. There is however a duty on employers to give serious consideration to such requests.

The process

Any employee considering such action must decide precisely what they are looking to achieve and the application must be specific, they must also think about any knock on effects such changes would make to the business, meaning from the outset the onus is put on the employee to think their request through. If accepted it would mean a permanent change to the contract of employment.

The procedure

The employee has to make their application in writing invoking their statutory right and providing details of their caring responsibilities. The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) website provides a template covering all the relevant information, including the date of any previous applications (as there is a 12 month suspension on repeat submissions).

Once the employer has received a properly completed application, they have 28 days to arrange a meeting to discuss it unless they can agree on the request straight away.

The meeting is to enter into a dialogue whereby an agreement can be reached, if it appears unlikely that the requested working pattern can be agreed it is worthwhile exploring possible alternatives.

The employer must notify the employee within 14 days of the meeting of their decision, the original request or the amended form is accepted the details and the permanence of the changes must be put in writing to the employee.

Rejection

If the request is rejected the grounds on which the decision has been made has to be notified and explained. These are wide ranging and could include the impact of costs, quality, performance and staffing as well as the ability to service customer demand.

The Employee can appeal against the decision but if internal procedures cannot resolve the issue workplace mediation may be a viable way forward. Recourse to employment tribunal is allowed but only on the allegation that either the decision to reject the request is based on incorrect facts, or the procedure was not followed correctly.

LEGAL STATISTICS

STATUTORY PAY - RATES ARE REVIEWED EACH APRIL

MATERNITY/ADOPTION PAY	SMP/SAP is paid for 39 Weeks
	Pay rate for the first six weeks of SMP: 90% of the employee's average weekly earnings
	SMP remaining weeks/SAP: £123.06 or 90% of average weekly earnings, whichever is less.
	Qualifying conditions: related to earnings level, length of service, time limits for notification, and medical evidence of pregnancy/documentary evidence of matching for adoption.
PATERNITY/PARTNER'S PAY	SPP is paid for two weeks
	Pay rate £123.06 or 90% of average weekly earnings whichever is less.
	Qualifying conditions: related to earnings level, length of service, time limits for notifications, and signed declaration of commitment.
SICK PAY	£79.15
REDUNDANCY PAY (REVIEWED EACH FEBRUARY)	Pay rate: 0.5 week's pay for each year's service for employees aged under 22years (a current weeks pay is (£350)
	1 week's pay for each year of service for employees between the ages of 22 and 40 years
	1.5 week's pay for each year of service for employees aged 41 and older.
NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE (REVIEWED EACH OCTOBER)	Pay Rate:
	£5.73 hourly (workers 22 years and older)
	£4.77 hourly (workers 18 to 21 years)
	£3.53 hourly (workers 16 to 17 years)
TRIBUNAL COMPENSATION LIMITS (REVIEWED EACH FEBRUARY)	
Limits on pay	1 day £21.50 1 week £350
Unfair dismissal	Basic award £10,500: maximum 30 weeks pay.
Breach of Contract	Maximum award: £25,000