

CVS Stirling e-Bulletin –2nd May 2008

A HAPPY MAY DAY TO ALL E-BULLETIN READERS!

There are plenty items of interest in this week's edition, from what's on locally and nationally to support and opportunities for volunteers.

Please email any contributions to lee.stevenson@cvs-stirling.org.uk. Remember, the deadline for each Friday's bulletin is the previous Monday.



If you have any queries, just call 01786 469916 and ask for Lee or Donald.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ENABLE Info Session

Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling
Monday, May 5th, from 6 pm

ENABLEink is looking for volunteers to help and support adults with learning disabilities to develop friendships through doing things they like in their community. The sort of activities could be anything from going to the pictures, to joining a dance class or going out for drinks. Volunteers can count on training, ongoing support, and out-of-pocket expenses.

People of all ages, who can give as much or as little of their time as they feel able, are encouraged to come along and find out more. Refreshments provided.

For further details, contact Willow Corey on 01786 448197, or email enableink.stirling@enable.org.uk



Red Cross aim for a million

May 4th -10th

Wanted - volunteers in the Forth Valley area to help the Red Cross achieve their target of £1 million in this month's Appeal Week.

This could involve registering to collect money (for just 2 hours) or by fundraising in other ways, from 'Dress Down' days in workplaces and schools to organising car washes and 'welly walks'.

To find out how you can help in the Stirling area, phone Gordon Prescott, Red Cross Senior Fundraiser in Forth Valley, on 01324 679074.

A wealth of fundraising kits and guides is available for download at the Red Cross website: www.redcross.org.uk/appealweek

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In Brief

The following national events will be coming up in the second half of May. To find out more, phone or visit the website in question.

12-18 Cancer Prevention Week

t: 020 7343 4200

www.wcrf-uk.org

15 International Day of Families

www.un.org/newlink

18-24 National Epilepsy Week

Aims: to educate more people, from MPs and other key decision makers to the general public, about epilepsy

t: 0113 210 8800

www.epilepsy.org.uk

19 World Hepatitis Awareness Day

t: 020 7089 6220

www.hepctrust.org.ukk

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GROUP NEWS

Epilepsy Charities Have Merged

Two charities, **Enlighten – Tackling epilepsy** and **Epilepsy Scotland** merged on 1 April 2008. Enlighten's Lothian-based operations become part of Epilepsy Scotland's services that help nearly 40,000 people affected by this common neurological condition.

The recommendation to combine Enlighten's local projects with Epilepsy Scotland's national services, first made in October 2006, was formally agreed on 31 March 2008. The decision to merge was unanimously supported by boards, membership and funders.

Epilepsy Scotland's Chief Executive Susan Douglas-Scott said: "By joining forces we will deliver a wider range of direct services often to vulnerable families ... We also plan to secure new funding and build on the existing innovative projects that already assist households living with epilepsy."

Enlighten's Chair, Richard Roberts remarked, "It was becoming increasingly challenging for a small charity to sustain the necessary management costs. We are delighted that Epilepsy Scotland can address this gap ... We all have the same aim in mind - better and wider services for people with epilepsy across Scotland."

Minister for Public Health Shona Robison will formally open Epilepsy Scotland's new Edinburgh office on Monday 19 May during **National Epilepsy Week**.

For more details or interviews with Enlighten or Epilepsy Scotland Board or members please contact: Allana Parker, Communications Manager, on 0141 419 1701 or 07884 012 147.

Details of National Epilepsy Week, including how to get involved in your area, can be found at www.epilepsy.org.uk



ATMs to boost MS awareness

The Multiple Sclerosis Society has launched a campaign to raise the profile of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week by advertising on cash machines.

The society predicts that a million people will see the two-week campaign while they wait for cash to be dispensed.

Said Matthew Trainer, head of communications at the Multiple Sclerosis Society, "ATM advertising provides a level of personal engagement that other outdoor mediums do not."

www.mssociety.org.uk/news

FUNDING & RESOURCES

Big Lottery Fund's 'People's Millions' Relunched

The Big Lottery Fund has announced a new funding round under its People's Millions Initiative. The fund will support projects that transform the local environment, or provide opportunities/facilities to allow people to take part and enjoy their local area.

They are particularly interested in supporting community-based projects that can show that they will increase community involvement or help people who are most in need.

In 2008, a total of £5.5 million will be available to support up to 4 projects within each of the 18 ITV regions, plus 18 runners-up. Organisations that can

enter the People's Millions include voluntary or community groups, public bodies such as local authorities, schools, or statutory health bodies and social enterprises.

For more information and entry form go to www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/

Deadline: **15 May 2008, Noon.**

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Grant monitoring – *what to do if things go wrong*

The Funders' Forum Frontline grew out of the Scotland Funders' Forum - a chief executive group which brings together private and public funding agencies in the country to share information, learning and best practice. FFF was set up in 2006 to work on practical ways to help both funders and applicants, and meets approximately four times a year.

In a 'help note' posted on their website, www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/qa_scotland_funders_forum.htm the Funders' Forum Frontline stress that funding organisations are keen to work with their grant recipients to help solve problems that may arise during the course of a project. Most issues, they claim, can be resolved by picking up the phone and discussing the problem with the funder.

They recommend planning ahead and following these tips to prevent problems arising once the project has started:

- Write a project plan covering all the main project activities, timescales, and resources required
- Make sure that roles and responsibilities are set out right from the start
- Remember to include contingency in your project budget for re-advertising jobs etc
- Keep a copy of the budget handy and review cost headings regularly
- Ensure your procedures for handling money are written down
- Know who your contact is at the grant making organisation and remember to read the monitoring forms so you know how often progress reports are due and what the procedures are for drawing down the grant

And remember, if difficulties do arise – contact your funder immediately!

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Free Legal Advice for SCVO Members

SCVO have launched a new service in partnership with three of Scotland's most respected legal firms.

Harper Macleod, Lindsays and MacRoberts have agreed to provide up to 2 hours of free legal advice to SCVO members.

The subjects covered are:

1. Property Law
2. Employment Law
3. Governance
4. Contracting
5. Intellectual Property

Who's eligible?

SCVO Members with an annual turnover of less than £500,000.

What's the procedure?

Simply call SCVO's Information Service on the **freephone helpline 0800 169 0022** between 10am and 4pm, Monday through Friday. They will take your contact details and the nature of your query and send this on to one of our legal partners. The legal firm will then contact you directly.

Is it confidential?

Absolutely.

What if the help I need takes longer than 2 hours?

Most queries should take less than this, but the legal firm will advise you privately if your issue needs greater attention. All three firms have agreed to charge the same rate should substantially more work be required and would only incur costs through reaching agreement and with your prior permission.

Each legal firm has agreed to work with SCVO in developing FAQ's on the 5 subjects. These will be posted on the SCVO website, so look out for them there. They have also agreed to collaborate with SCVO on presenting a range of free legal seminars for members – **WATCH THIS SPACE.**

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

New Volunteer Management Qualifications

Volunteer Development Scotland have announced a new range of SQA work-based awards which will provide new, recognised accredited qualifications, as well as opportunities to learn and develop skills in volunteer management. And participating in the programmes should enable organisations to review and develop their practice in managing volunteers.

Applications for two of these award programmes are being taken **NOW:**

- Management of Volunteers (SCQF Level 7) – Autumn 2008
- Management of Volunteering (SCQF Level 8) – Summer 2008 (subject to SQA approval).

More details from www.vds.org.uk



SCVO Training courses

The following courses are coming up soon. For details, visit the website www.scvo.org.uk or phone 0131 474 8019.

06 May 08	Understanding Constitutions and Charitable Status	Inverness
07 May 08	Event Management (Rescheduled from 5/2/08)	Edinburgh
09 May 08	Financial Planning for Non-Financial Managers	Edinburgh
12 May 08	Assertiveness Skills	Edinburgh
12 May 08	Funding from Trusts and Foundations	Glasgow

Delivering Better Health, Better Care - Investing in Volunteers

Surgeon's Hall, Edinburgh

Friday 30 May, 2008 (10.30am—3.30pm)

The Scottish Government now requires all Health Boards to achieve *Investing in Volunteers*, the UK Quality Standard which benchmarks an organisation's commitment to high quality volunteer involvement, by 31 March 2011. Letters from the Scottish Government to all CEOs of NHS Health Boards have been sent out about the new Strategy.

The National Occupational Standards (NOS) on Management of Volunteers are currently being refreshed by the UK Workforce Hub to help make the best of our volunteers.

This event will provide invaluable information and understanding for all those supporting volunteers in a health context

Fees:

Volunteer Service Managers: £50; Public/Private Sector £50; Large Voluntary organisations £50 (**free of charge to small voluntary and community organisations**).

Details and booking forms from Volunteer Development Scotland website, www.vds.org.uk, or email celia.carson@cvs.org.uk

LEGISLATION & POLICY

Community Empowerment

In a recent statement, Louisa Harvey of the Community Engagement Team

reported on the progress being made with the Empowering Communities agenda.

Following a series of discussion events October to December last year, the Scottish Government and COSLA agreed to issue a joint commitment to ensuring that communities have a degree of control and influence over the things that matter to them. This high-level commitment is backed up by an action plan.

The broad outline of the plan, shaped by the feedback received from the dialogue events, will cover:

- Highlighting examples of community empowerment;
- Providing direct capacity building investment to community groups;
- Investing in an integrated programme to develop skills, learning and networking in relation to community empowerment and engagement;
- Developing support to help communities own assets;
- Investing in improved support for community capacity building;
- Working with Audit Scotland to agree how to assess progress on empowerment.

If you have any queries or if you would like a copy of the feedback document from the discussions held last year, e-mail communityengagement@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

RECRUITMENT

BRAVEHEART DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (CLACKS)

NHS FORTH VALLEY - REF. 0408313

Closing Date: **12 Noon on Wednesday 7th May 2008**

Interview Date: Wednesday 14th May 2008

(Band 5, Salary Scale: £19,683 – £25,424 per annum, pro rata
Part-time, 30 Hours per Week - Fixed-term until 31 December 2011)

The aim of the Braveheart Programme is to recruit and train volunteer health mentors to run self help groups for adults with Coronary Heart Disease. You will be based mainly at our Alloa office with one day being spent at the Falkirk base.

You will work closely with the Braveheart Co-ordinator, Volunteers, Primary Care staff and Health Professionals within Falkirk Royal and Stirling Royal Infirmary to widen access to the scheme and raise profile.

Requirements:

- A degree or an equivalent level qualification in Community Health or related field
- Ability to work flexible hours associated with the post
- Previous experience in health promotion and working in the community.

- The post holder is required to be mobile throughout the Falkirk & Clackmannanshire area.
- Computer knowledge is beneficial and knowledge of Community Health programmes for older people is advantageous.

Application forms and job descriptions (quoting post title and reference number) are available by e-mailing fvrecruitment@fvah.scot.nhs.uk or by telephoning the recruitment answer line on **01786 447488**. Or apply on-line at www.show.scot.nhs.uk.

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Executive Committee Member (from a smaller voluntary sector organisation)

The Voluntary Sector Social Services Workforce Unit would like to recruit a new member to its Executive Committee. Commitment involves quarterly committee meetings (various locations across Scotland), with occasional invitations to other events.

If you are interested in workforce development issues, work for a smaller voluntary sector social service organisation (50 employees or less), and would like to influence the way in which the Workforce Unit supports the voluntary sector, we would like to hear from you. Please send a note of interest to vswu.admin@ccpscotland.org **before 14th May**.

For more information about the Workforce Unit, visit the website at www.ccpscotland.org/workforceunit or call Judith Midgley or Caroline Sturgeon on 01786 849 752.

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Volunteer Trainee Mediators

Family Mediation Central Scotland works with families post separation or divorce, offering assistance by way of mediation in resolving outstanding issues particularly to do with their children.

We are currently looking to recruit people to train as volunteer mediators. If you have a keen interest in people, and in children and families in particular, then please call 01786 472984 or email fm.central@btconnect.com

Closing date for applications is **Friday 16th May**.

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Heritage Lottery Fund – Support Services Register seeks mentors

Mentoring support is a new role that might be of interest to organisations and individuals working or supporting groups within the community/voluntary sector.

HLF is currently renewing its register of support services, which includes people who can work as lead monitors, associate monitors, expert advisors and mentors.

Applying is simple. Organisations and individuals formally express their interest by replying to the contract notice which can be found on the Tenders Electronic Daily website www.ted.europa.eu. (search "all current notices" using "heritage lottery fund").

HLF will then email a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire to be returned by **13 May 2008**. Further information on the support roles and how to apply is attached, or you can find out more at www.hlf.org.uk/English/Articles/Projectinfocus.htm

OTHER NEWS

MV Volunteering Passport

Young volunteers now have a NEW online personal resource - a free journal that will allow them to record, track and reflect on their volunteering experience.

The **MV Volunteering Passport** is an extension to the MV Awards, a national awards scheme which gives recognition for the number of hours a young person volunteers. Certificates are awarded for 50, 100 and 200 hours, signed by Scottish Executive Ministers and supported nationwide by the Volunteer Centre Scotland Network and Volunteer Development Scotland (VDS).

With the MV Volunteering Passport a young person can:

- Record hours and claim MV Award certificates
- Search for volunteering opportunities
- Capture his or her own personal volunteering journey
- Share volunteering stories with other MV volunteers

So if you're aged 16-25 and either volunteering or just thinking about becoming a volunteer, you can start your very own MV Volunteering Passport today. Sign up at www.vds.org.uk

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Please email both positive and negative comments about the e-Bulletin to Lee on lee.stevenson@cvs-stirling.org.uk, as well as any ideas for improving the publication.

***Thank you,
Lee and Donald.***