

CVS Stirling e-Bulletin 17th Oct. 2008



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An e-Bulletin letters section?
A regular forum for sharing information, observations, experiences, points of view... or just letting off steam?

Of course, it can only work if there's sufficient interest to sustain it, so we're canvassing readers' opinions. A good idea, or not? Please get in touch and tell us what you think.

Comments and suggestions for the [website](#) and e-Bulletin are welcome. Emails to: lee.stevenson@cvs-stirling.org.uk or donald.saunders@cvs-stirling.org.uk

Deadline for contributions is the previous Monday. If you have any queries, please call 01786 469916 and ask for Lee or Donald.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER Funding Programme

Calendar House, Falkirk
Thursday, 23rd October, 5-7 pm.



(More details about the launch, mentioned in the last e-Bulletin.)

You are invited to attend the launch of the new Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER funding programme. Funding of £2.77 million has been awarded to the rural Forth Valley and Lomond area as part of the Scottish Rural Development Plan.

The launch event will allow you to find out more about LEADER, meet the people involved, and hear from projects which have received LEADER funding in the past. A buffet with local produce will be provided. Please RSVP to launch@fvl.org.uk or 01786 442687.

'Stirling By Numbers' Seminar

Council Chambers, Old Viewforth, Stirling
Thursday, 23rd October, 2 – 3 pm FREE

This free seminar from the Research Team at Stirling Council looks at how you can find and use local information and statistics on topics such as population, health, economy, deprivation, environment, crime, etc.

To register a place on the seminar, please click here

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=t_2bPf8lfIBOsvzdWG7JDfyQ_3d_3d

For more information about the seminar please click here

http://web.stirling.gov.uk/local_information_seminar_231008.pdf

Energy Efficiency Fair

Strathblane Primary School, Southview Rd, Strathblane, G63 9JQ

Saturday 25th October, 10am – 5pm

Paying the earth to heat your house? Find out how you can cut your energy costs at this drop-in event. Grants, home insulation, solar panels, heat pumps, fuel cell cars – this is a one-stop-shop to find out all about them and see them for yourself. There will be talks, stalls, practical demonstrations and fun activities: visit www.strathblanefield.org.uk to see the full programme. Free event organised by the Blane Valley Carbon Neutral Group, part of Strathblanefield Community Development Trust.

Contact: Mary Brailey 01360 771613 or email cn@strathblanefield.org.uk

Carbon-Neutral Ceilidh

Edmonstone Hall, Glasgow Road, Strathblane

Saturday 25th October, 8pm

Tickets: £5

Put on those dancing shoes and come on down to the acoustic **Carbon-Free Ceilidh**. Prove you can have a great time without (much) electricity! Organised by the Blane Valley Carbon Neutral Group, part of Strathblanefield Community Development Trust. For more information or to buy tickets, contact Alisdair Fleming at alisdair_f@hotmail.com or 01360 771182.

Heart to Heart

Support for those affected by Divorce or Separation

New Course beginning:

Every Monday, 7-9.30pm, 3rd November– 8th December

Are you or someone you know suffering from the effects of a broken relationship? Feeling overwhelmed, lonely, depressed, hurt, lacking confidence, bitter or angry?

This 6 week course will take place in Central Stirling. For more information and to register your interest please contact Cathy on 01877 339966 or 07790 437713, email

info@hearttoheart.org.uk . Heart to Heart's address is Room 3, Callander Kirk Hall, South Church Street, Callander, Fk17 8BN.

Charity Law Update – A Legal Services Agency Ltd. Seminar

Legal Services Agency Ltd., 3rd Floor, Fleming House,
134 Renfrew Street, Glasgow

Wednesday 5th November, 10 am – 1 pm (Registration and Coffee 9.30am)

COST: £90.00 full price; £80.00 LSA members; £60.00 Concessionary



What's it about?

The new Scottish charities legislation will make important changes to the framework for regulation of charities in Scotland - and will have significant implications for all those involved on boards or committees of charitable bodies. This seminar will cover

- the **new definition** of a Scottish charity
- the role and powers of the **charities regulator**
- the duties of **charity trustees**, and the new legal entity - the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) - which will become available through the new legislation
- an **overview** of the new approach to the monitoring of Scottish charities and the regulation of fund-raising.

Who is it for?

This seminar will be of interest to anyone serving on a board or management committee of a charitable body (or serving as a trustee of a charitable trust) or anyone who is involved in providing advice or support to charitable bodies.

Speaker

The speaker is Graeme Palmer, Associate Solicitor, Burness LLP, Solicitors, Glasgow, who has extensive expertise in the field of charities, community business and the voluntary sector.

The booking form (with 10% discount) can accessed at

www.lsa.org.uk/seminardiarynovember2008.aspx

Funders Speed Networking Event

Boglestone Community Centre, Port Glasgow, Inverclyde
Friday 5th December, 11.15am - 2.00pm

The logo for Scottish Local Authority External Funding Officers (SLOG) is located in the bottom right area. It features the letters 'SLOG' in a large, blue, stylized font with a slight 3D effect.

**Scottish Local Authority
External Funding Officers**

Background

There are numerous funders in Scotland with different priorities, different funding capacities, and different approaches to reach potential beneficiaries. Some independent grant distributing Trusts or Foundations, Lottery Distributors or Government Agencies

have developed initiatives to connect with local partners, some have not. Some face constraints, such as the number of employees or lack of local contacts.

Local authorities and local Council of Voluntary Services (CVSs) have developed extensive local networks and local knowledge. Joint working arrangements have been built to support community and voluntary groups to access funding. However, some of these arrangements could be strengthened as well as links to funders in Scotland which needs to be developed on an on-going basis.

The purpose of the event will be to offer an opportunity for Scotland Funders to connect with local partners and develop a network of contacts which can help them to achieve their priorities as well as offering improved access to funding for potential beneficiaries.

It is expected that representatives from local authorities and local Council of Voluntary Services across Scotland will attend. It is suggested to split Scotland into 10 areas (this can be amended):

1. Highland and Islands (Highland, Shetland, Orkney, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar)
2. Grampian (Moray, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire),
3. Tayside (Angus, Dundee, Perth and Kinross),
- 4. Forth Valley and Fife (Fife, Stirling, Falkirk, Clackmannanshire),**
5. Lothians (East Lothian, West Lothian, Midlothian, Edinburgh City),
6. South of Scotland (Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway),
7. Ayrshire (East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire)
8. Argyll and Bute and Lanarkshire (North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Argyll and Bute)
9. Glasgow and Renfrew (Glasgow City, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire)
10. Inverclyde and Dunbarton (East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde)

We understand that not everybody will be able to attend. However, it would be good to have at least one representative from each local authority area who can forward information and contacts.

Funders will have to register (no registration fee) by 31st October 2008 and will be allocated scheduled appointments with each area. Each appointment will last 15 minutes. Registration will be through Perth and Kinross Council (sarnott@pkc.gov.uk or 01738 475726). If the number of participants is too low, we will have to cancel the event (Management Team will meet after 31st October to decide).

Details from Serge Merone (Chair) – 01738 475536 - smerone@pkc.gov.uk

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TRAINING & RESOURCES

Supplier Development Programme (SDP)

Many social enterprises find it difficult to enter the public procurement market. This new programme aims to help them improve their chances of winning contracts.

The Scottish Government has just subscribed to an exciting new service, which is now available **free of charge** to all trading Third Sector organisations and social enterprises across Scotland. The **Supplier Development Programme (SDP)** aims to assist businesses to improve their performance in winning contracts with Scottish Public Sector Organisations. By signing up, you will get access to, or be included within:

- ⇒ An interactive, searchable database of suppliers, in use by many public sector commissioners;
- ⇒ Events and workshops on procurement issues;
- ⇒ Business support;
- ⇒ Quarterly bulletins with news and information.

The programme is recommended for organisations that have the potential to contract at a significant level and have aspirations to expand their business by supplying goods and services to public sector agencies.

It offers participants not just the prospect of gaining a better understanding of procurement processes but also highlights the potential value of their organisation's Intellectual Assets and gives them access to an extensive (mainly) private sector network.

To take advantage of this service, all you have to do is register at the SDP website: www.sdpscotland.co.uk

Third Sector Library

SCVO, the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, is producing an interactive evidence library website. Created with funding from the Scottish Government, the library will include research reports, briefings and publications that relate to Scotland's Third Sector.

The website is aimed at Third Sector practitioners, policymakers and researchers, to provide them with the knowledge they need to carry out further research, policymaking or activity development.

A **questionnaire** has been created to garner feedback on the library and its contents, to ensure it best serves your needs. To take part in the survey, go to www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=bfUfk6fifVHHkN5Nn06wNQ_3d_3d

New Online Charity Store

A new website and online store for the voluntary sector offers SCVO members up to 90% off market-leading software (eg Microsoft, Symantec, Adobe). You can also subscribe to their regular email newsletter for info on the latest offers.



Pugh Computers is one of the UK's leading suppliers of software to the education and voluntary sectors. It focuses exclusively on software and licence provision, and has considerable expertise in educational software licensing for schools, universities, HE and FE institutions, charitable bodies, students, teachers, lectures and independent learners of all ages.

The site address is <http://charities.pugh.co.uk> – check it out.

Voluntary and Community Sector Jargon

Do you know the difference between a CBO and a CIC? What is an Asset Based Initiative? Should IIPs be concerned with NEETs? (*Answer: yes, of course.*)

Technical terms (jargon, to their enemies) and acronyms can be a headache - particularly as they seem to be proliferating daily – but they are a fact of life, and we have to get to grips with them.

The Voluntary Arts Network has come up with a useful briefing, downloadable at www.vascotland.org.uk/uploaded/map7823.pdf to guide us through the jargon maze. Here, some of the most commonly used terms and acronyms are defined clearly and concisely. And, for those who wish to delve deeper, other websites are signposted.

“Plain English is always the democrat's best defence.”

- Andrew Marr

- * What are *your* views on jargon/technical terminology? When, if ever, is it justified? Should we all sign up to the Plain English Campaign?

Foundation Course in Fundraising Practice

Teachers Building, St Enoch Square,
Glasgow

20th – 23rd October, 10 am - 4.30 pm.

DIRECTORY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

FEES:

Band A: Voluntary and community organisations with a turnover of £100,000 - £500,000: £695.00

Band B: Voluntary and community organisations with a turnover of over £500,000: £820.00

Band C: Statutory and commercial organisations: £955.00

This course is designed to extend participants' knowledge and skills of the planning and practice of fundraising, and increase their ability to identify and address their fundraising needs. It is aimed at fundraisers who require a structured introduction to fundraising and their role within a fundraising organisation.

Learning outcomes include the ability to establish and communicate an effective case for support, identify the nature and type of research required to inform fundraising decisions, recognise what motivates donors, plan, organise and allocate resources for fundraising, evaluate the effectiveness of fundraising and identify key legislation regulations.

For more details, visit www.dsc.org.uk/Training/ You can book online here or download a form to post or fax.

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VOLUNTEERING & EMPLOYMENT

Wanted: Committee Members

The new **Standards Council for Community Learning and Development in Scotland** is now looking for people to serve on its committees.

As a peer-led professional body, we need you – practitioners, employers, training providers, students – to shape the ways in which we develop as a profession

- 18 people to sit on the Council Executive Committee
- up to 25 people in total for its three Sub-committees



We need people who can represent the interests of our diverse and complex field, whether newly qualified or with many years of varied experience. You should have a commitment to raising standards across all aspects of our work.

Log on to our website, find out more and complete the application form by **17th November 2008**.

See www.scotland.gov.uk/CLDStandardsCouncil for details.

New Volunteering Resource Pack

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) Scotland Volunteering Project has produced a new **Volunteering Resource Pack** for organisations interested in recruiting and supporting deaf and hard of hearing volunteers.



There are a lot of assumptions and misconceptions about what deaf and hard of hearing people can and cannot take part in. This **FREE** pack contains useful information and some basic guidance on things that can be quickly and easily done to make your volunteer program more accessible.

You can download the Resource Pack (a PDF file) from www.rnid.org.uk/about/in_your_area/scotland/news_and_events/2008/rnid_scotland_volunteering_support_pack.htm

If you have any further queries, require further support in developing volunteering for deaf and hard of hearing volunteers, or wish to request a hard copy of the pack, please contact phyl.meyer@rnid.org.uk or call 0131 311 8522.

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FUNDING

The Mohammad Ibrahim Foundation

The Mohammad Ibrahim Foundation is a private independent grant making foundation. Grants of between £500 and £10,000 are available to organisations which aim to improve the quality of life for people and communities in the UK. Extraordinary projects may receive grants up to £50,000. Applications can be made at any time.

“The foundation has always believed in the need to support and maintain a free, stable and socially cohesive society, where enterprise is encouraged and people are able to realise their potential, take advantage of opportunities and play their part in democratic life.”

The Foundation considers work which others may find hard to fund, perhaps because it breaks new ground, appears too risky, requires core funding, or needs a more unusual form of financial help such as a loan.

We also take initiatives ourselves where new thinking is required or where we believe there are important unexplored opportunities.

Community Building Grants

The Mohammad Ibrahim Foundation focuses on strengthening communities by engaging residents and stakeholders in a process that builds leadership and capacity from within, while respecting and valuing the rich diversity represented in our geographic region.

They support efforts to build social capital; a resource defined as the web of relationships and civic participation that improves our ability to address the challenges and opportunities we face as a community. They also recognize that building a community's capacity and leadership is a critical precursor to community involvement for those, who, because of language, culture or educational levels have been excluded from participation.

Detailed application guidelines can be found on the website, www.ibrahimfoundation.com

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GROUP NEWS

Town Break AGM

*Baptist Church Hall, Murray Place
Wednesday, 29th October.*

Our 16th AGM for Town Break will be held on the above date. A buffet lunch will be served from 12.45pm and the business meeting will commence at 1.15pm. The guest speaker is Phil Cummings, Stirling Council Social Work Dept.

Town Break Appeal

“Reminiscence - the act of recalling or narrating past experiences.”

Reminiscence is something that we all indulge in as we recall times in our lives that we have enjoyed and are important to us. This process becomes even more important as short term memory diminishes and memories of events long gone are all that is left.

We at Town Break, Stirling would like to appeal to your readers to have a look in your desk, cupboards or cabinets to discover if you have anything that you could donate to help us. We intend to make up **Reminiscence Boxes** to help our Lunch Club and Befriending service clients throughout Stirling District who have dementia to retain their memories and tell their tales for as long as possible.

Perhaps you have some old costume jewellery in a drawer?... some postcards of Stirling ... war memorabilia ... gardening or craft materials? ... or maybe some old newspaper cuttings tucked away? We hope that you will think of us when something falls out of your cupboard that you no longer use.

If you would like to donate something, or would like to learn more about our volunteering opportunities and take part in this Autumn's training programme, please phone us on 01786 447787 or 079481 07282.

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OTHER NEWS

Ssssh! It's the Secret Shoppers...

SAAP (Stirling Area Access Panel), set up in June 2007 to improve access provision throughout the Stirling area, has been employing a number of tactics to advance its aims, and one of these is a **Secret Shopper** programme.

The concept is simple. Secret Shoppers – or Mystery Shoppers as they're sometimes called – visit a range of services (such as town centres, visitor attractions, post offices, banks, high street stores) to test their accessibility. They go incognito, as ordinary members of the public. Then they report back, rating the establishment in terms of user accessibility and identifying areas that could be improved.

To date, SAAP has carried out three Secret Shopper exercises. The latest was to WH Smiths in Stirling's Thistle Centre, and the Post Office it now hosts following a recent controversial relocation.

The two SAAP representatives, one of them a wheelchair user, found the shop easy to access, fully carpeted with reasonably wide aisles for wheelchairs, prams or walking aids. However, some of the items for sale were out of reach of a wheelchair user, as was the chip-and-pin at the counter. Staff were able and willing to respond to requests for help.

Post Office access via the lift was good. The lift button was at an ideal height from a wheelchair user's perspective. It also had Braille on the call button and was voice active. Approaches to the lift had a non-slip floor grip covering.

The PO area was well set out, the flooring laminated but not slippery. The queuing area was zig-zag, but a staff member explained that wheelchair users could come to the right hand side and be 'skipped' into queue, whence they would be served directly. The till had a high counter, but also a lower shelf for writing. When told about the accessibility exercise, the till assistant proved helpful and forthcoming in any questions the SAAP representatives asked.

In conclusion, they found the services in both areas accessible and user friendly, and deemed that assistance was freely available if needed.

- * **SAAP was set up by CVS Stirling in partnership with The Scottish Disability Forum. It comprises a range of voluntary, community and individual members throughout the Stirling Council Area.**
- * **If you would like more information, visit the [new SAAP page](#) on our website www.cvs-stirling.org.uk where you can view the full report, as well as the minutes of SAAP meetings.**

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GROUPS IN FOCUS: STIRLING WRVS



**Sandra Clements, WRVS
Territory Manager**

WRVS make it count™

For 70 years now, the **Women's Royal Voluntary Service** has been 'making it count' - helping thousands of older people in communities throughout the UK get more out of life.

The WRVS was initially set up to give help and support to civilians during World War II. It has evolved into being a modern service provider, playing a key role in building a socially inclusive society, and is one of the country's largest voluntary groups.

Sandra Clements has been with WRVS Stirling for 6 years. She has just recently been promoted to Territory Manager for Forth Valley, Perth and Kinross and Tayside (leaving a vacancy for her previous post as Project Manager). Along with Administrator Glenda, she manages "around 350" volunteers in the Stirling area from their offices next to the Sheriff Court.

That's a lot of volunteers to keep track of?

"Well, we're still looking for more," she laughs. Volunteers come from all parts of society and from any age group. The majority are involved in the Meals on Wheels service, and because volunteering opportunities are mostly daytime Monday to Friday, it could be people who aren't working, or retired, or parents with children at school, who get involved – also people with learning disabilities.

You can tell that Sandra is very proud of her volunteers. "It's great that most of the people who volunteer with us stay with us. About two-thirds have been with us at least ten years." (And some more than that – one old lady, who recently received a Provost's Award, was a volunteer for a magnificent 67 years.)

She points out that, while working with the elderly may not have the same glamour or attraction as working with, say, young people, it can be both fascinating and rewarding: "You hear some stories!"

The work of volunteers covers west rural Stirling up to Strathblane and Killearn, as well as the city itself, and is very varied. Everyone has heard of Meals on Wheels; they also provide Community Transport (mostly for rural areas), and drivers for Town Break. Then there's the weekly Lunch Clubs, and the Stroke Club. The Good Neighbours scheme, as

*Despite its name,
the WRVS isn't a
women's only
organisation –
males account for
15% of the
volunteer force
nationwide.*

the name suggests, involves helping and supporting older people who may be isolated or housebound – the sort of thing neighbours would have done without a second thought in the days when communities were closer-knit and more self-supportive. And there can't be many of us who haven't made use of the café facilities WRVS provide in hospitals - these will have a role in the new Stirling and Falkirk community hospitals.

Partnership working with other groups is important, as Sandra explains. *“To make the best use of our resources, we have to avoid duplicating or overlapping services. We work with other groups that support the elderly, like Age Concern and Dial-a-Journey, and we're always looking at new ways to expand and become more efficient.”*

WRVS is also looking to develop more of a High Street presence. One way forward could be drop-in centres offering a range of services like café and information facilities: the first of these has opened in Paisley.



“It's a joy coming to work in the morning.”

One thing is certain – the need for the services WRVS provides will be ever greater as the proportion of elderly people in the population increases. But Sandra is confident the volunteers will be found to meet the challenge.

“There are always people out there who are prepared to give of their time and energy to make a difference. It's really quite humbling.”

“This is a fantastic organisation, and there are wonderful people involved with it. It's just a joy coming to work in the morning.”

Finally, is there any message she'd like to put across? Sandra doesn't hesitate.

“On this, our 70th anniversary, I'd like to say a huge ‘Thank You’ to our volunteers!”

*** If you're interested in volunteering with WRVS you can contact Sandra or Glenda on 01786 450718. They can also tell you about the Project Manager vacancy.**

The website www.wrvs.org.uk has lots of information about the organisation.

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Council for Voluntary Services - Thriving and Connecting Communities in Stirling

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