

CVS Stirling e-Bulletin 19th Sept. 2008



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A busy time here at CVS Stirling, with our AGM coming up next week ...

Also, early preparations for our annual Christmas event – do consider taking part and if so, let us know as soon as possible.

Another event to get involved in is the consultation about Stirling's new hospital (*FORTHCOMING EVENTS*, below) – this should be a worthwhile exercise, where we can really make a difference.

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

Stirling Food Network

Cowane Centre, Stirling
Tuesday, 25th September
10.30 am-2 pm

The next network meeting has been set for the above time. This is an opportunity for community groups, organisations and projects - in fact, anyone involved with food activities in the Stirling area - to meet and share information about food issues.

Twenty-six people attended the first Stirling Food Network on 19th March this year, including representatives from the voluntary sector.

For details, contact Susan Kennedy, Community Food Development Worker on 01786 431171 or email susankennedy2@nhs.net

Building Safer Communities

A One-Day Policing-in-Partnership Conference

Glasgow Hilton
Monday, 27th October

There is broad agreement that community policing can and should make a vital contribution to improving the safety of our communities and reducing crime. But how

do we build safer communities, and what does effective community policing actually look like? It takes more than just officers on the streets - it requires partnership and engagement with the communities they serve.

This conference will address these key issues:

- ⇒ Should we be doing more to deliver effective community policing in Scotland and if so, how?
- ⇒ Who is responsible for policing and protecting our communities? What role can other agencies, organisations and individuals play?
- ⇒ How can communities and police engage more effectively and work together in partnership?
- ⇒ What limitations are there on community engagement, and how can we overcome these?
- ⇒ How can we build effective community partnerships to deliver sustainable solutions to local problems?
- ⇒ How can police and others engage with 'hard to reach' communities?

For full details including delegate rates please see

<http://conferences.holyrood.com/content/view/601/142/> You can take advantage of our early bird discount by booking at this link:

http://conferences.holyrood.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=603&Itemid=1

If you have any questions, please email policing@holyrood.com or phone 0131 272 2133.

Mentally Healthy - Workplace Training for Managers

Haypark Business Centre, Marchmont Avenue, Polmont
Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th October
10 am – 4 pm (coffee/registration from 9.30)



This two-day seminar is aimed at giving employers and managers a broad understanding of mental health, looking at what makes us – and keeps us – mentally healthy. As well as letting us enjoy life, mental health enables us to work more efficiently and makes it easier for other to work with us.

The seminar is run by NHS Forth Valley's Healthy Working Lives, and the training will meet criteria for the Healthy Working Lives Awards.

For more information, and If you'd like to attend, contact Jenny Ewen on 01786 431132, email jewen@nhs.net

Discussion Event – Stirling’s New Community Hospital

Forthbank Stadium
12th November, 2-4 pm

The development of Stirling’s new community hospital is of concern to us all, and it is vital that the voluntary sector should engage with and influence the process with regard to its particular views and needs.

To begin the process of engagement, the Stirling Projects Board invites representatives from all CVS organisations to the above event. Its purpose is to explore the opportunities to support the links between the health and voluntary sectors through the development of the future community health facility in Stirling.

The event will involve a broad range of discussion topics. For example:

- An overview and update on the community hospitals planning process to date
- How might a facility like this support the work of the voluntary sector?
- How might the voluntary sector support the work of the facility?

We strongly urge our member groups to consider taking part. If you would like to attend, please contact CVS Stirling and let us know.

CVS Stirling’s Charity Christmas Event

Albert Halls, Stirling
27th November, 3-7 pm.

This is the twelfth year of this important event in the local charities calendar, and we hope to make it as great a success as previous ones – if not better!

Last year, 34 charities were involved, raising over £8,000. Those taking part have found it really worthwhile, both for raising funds and for raising public awareness of their organisation.

Catering will be again provided by the Sunlite Café, so we can be assured of good healthy sustenance throughout.

All CVS groups should have been contacted about this event. If for some reason you haven’t heard from us, please get in touch.

LEADER - a correction

In the last e-Bulletin, we incorrectly inserted a notice about a Leader meeting on 6th October. This however referred to a meeting in 2007. We apologise for the confusion.

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TRAINING & RESOURCES

Free IT Support

iT4Communities is the UK's leading national IT volunteering programme. Their main areas of activity are to help charities and community/voluntary groups find volunteers to help with their IT needs, and help IT professionals find suitable volunteering opportunities. Since iT4Communities was founded in 2002, over £2.5 million worth of IT support has been delivered to the voluntary and community sector.

Their services are **free to registered charities, non-profit and community groups**. iT4Comunities can help charities, community groups and social enterprises access free support from IT professional volunteers and make substantial savings. While volunteering allows IT professionals to support their special cause, give something back to the community and improve their skills.

To find out more, and register your group, visit www.it4communities.org.uk or phone 0207 796 2144.

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VOLUNTEERING & EMPLOYMENT

Children's Panels Seek Volunteers

This September, as in previous years, the Scottish Government is running a national campaign to recruit new volunteers to serve on Children's Panels. Stirling is one of the local authority areas now actively recruiting.

These Panels are at the heart of Scotland's Children's Hearings system, introduced in 1971. Children's Hearings are a relatively informal way of addressing all kinds of situations where a child or young person is in need of care and protection or if he/she has committed an offence.

Currently, there are around 2,500 volunteer panel members in Scotland from all walks of life. Panel members are carefully selected and undergo continuous training. Most commit around 1½ days per month, but it can be more or less.

If you think you may have the qualities necessary, you can start by registering your interest on the Children's Panel website www.infoscotland.com/childrespanel or phone 0845 6012770.

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POLICY & PLANNING

Stirling Council's New Petitions System

Citizens and businesses in the Stirling Council area will soon have a new way of reaching elected members.

Last Thursday (11th Sept) Council members voted to introduce a petitions procedure which will allow local people to engage directly with the council's decision making procedures.

A **Petitions Panel** will be set up with membership drawn from each of the four political parties represented on Stirling Council.

The system is intended to be simple and straightforward. Once it is up and running, petitions supported by either 25 signatures from people living in the Stirling Council and registered on the electoral roll, or the relevant community council, or one of the local elected members, will be considered by the Petitions Panel.

A petition from a local business will need support from at least five other businesses on the valuation roll - or the support of the relevant community council, or one of the local elected members.

Members of the Petitions Panel will formally consider petitions received and decide on the action to be taken – for example, referring it to the relevant decision making body, community planning partner or other body, or agreeing to take other appropriate action.

“petitions supported by 25 signatures from people living in the Stirling Council area ... will be considered”

The panel is to meet seven times a year, in the week before the full Council meeting. This should allow the issues raised to be debated and dealt with promptly.

Guidelines for submitting a petition and the petitions template will shortly be available on the Council website: www.stirling.gov.uk

CVS Stirling e-Bulletin readers will be kept updated, and informed when the system is in place.

Public Transport Access Found Wanting

A new report from the charity **Leonard Cheshire Disability** has found that disabled people in Scotland are routinely let down by public transport access arrangements.

⇒ Over 60% of disabled people in Scotland have missed out on social activities because of transport access problems

⇒ Over 40% have had to turn down job offers because of difficulties getting to work

Over two-thirds of those surveyed claimed to have missed a social activity due to lack of accessible transport, and 41 per cent said they had had to turn down a job offer because it was too difficult to get to work.

Also, access barriers on Scottish public transport often made it very difficult for disabled people to carry out their day-to-day routines.

The report, **“Mind the Gap: The Next Step,”** called for disability equality training for all frontline public transport staff, for transport providers to meet their

obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act, and for a government-led public awareness campaign on accessible transport.

The publication of the report came as rail minister Tom Harris MP announced that five Scottish rail stations would receive money from Scotland's share of the Department for Transport's £370m **Access for All** funding, which aims to improve accessibility across the UK's rail network between 2006 and 2015.

Also launched was a new code of practice on accessible train and station design for disabled passengers. This aims to provide a single set of design standards to establish a basic level of accessibility across the whole rail network.

For more information on the code of practice and the Access For All scheme, visit www.dft.gov.uk

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FUNDING

Volunteering Scotland Grant Scheme



The Voluntary Action Fund (VAF) has announced that its flagship volunteering investment fund is once more open for business. The **Volunteering Scotland Grant Scheme (VSGS)** can provide grants for up to three years for projects that attract harder to reach volunteers. The philosophy behind VSGS is simple: that with dedicated resources, organisations can develop and sustain high quality volunteering opportunities for people who need more support to get involved; and that with this extra resource of volunteers, the organisation can enrich its services.

Applications for grants are now invited. Substantial grants for one or two years are available, as well as one-off small grants of £5,000 to smaller organisations.

To download an application form and guidance notes, click on these links: [VSGS Guidance Notes](#) , [VSGS Application Form](#)

The closing date for the second round of the **main grants** (for one and two years) is **30 September 2008**. Applications for **small grants** are considered throughout the year.

Scottish Investment Fund Online

The Scottish Investment Fund (SIF) is a £30m fund established by the Scottish Government to build on the activities of the Futurebuilders Scotland Programme which invested almost £18m between 2004 and 2007 in expanding the role of the social economy in delivering public services.



While SIF shares a number of the aims associated with Futurebuilders Scotland, it will target social outcomes achieved in specified priority areas and adopt an investment-based approach fundamentally different to traditional grant-based schemes.

Current investment priorities will be organisations with social missions to address issues of **employability, environmental action**, and the underlying **causes of health inequality**.

Key features of SIF:

- A total of £30m will be subscribed over a three-year period - £4m in 2008/2009, £10m in 2009/10 and £16m in 2010/11;
- SIF is targeted at established, 'investment ready' social enterprises which have been trading successfully, generating income other than grants, for at least three years and which aim to achieve a step change in their activities;
- SIF aims to provide a blend of funding solutions including loan finance and non-repayable strategic investments as well as other financial products providing the equivalent of risk capital;
- Loan funding will be a key element of all SIF investment packages.
NB: Organisations unwilling (or unable) to consider loan finance will not be eligible for SIF investment.

The website went live on the 1st September when the SIF opened for applications.

A key feature of the website is an **Online Appraisal** mode, which enables organisations seeking investment to establish

1. whether or not they meet SIF **eligibility** criteria
2. whether they meet **investment-ready** criteria, and
3. the extent to which their activities and social outcomes fit with the fund's **investment priorities**.

On completion of all three stages of the online model, they will be given an initial indication of the likelihood of their proposal progressing to the next stage.

The SIF is managed by Social Investment Scotland and further information can be found on the SIF website www.scottishinvestmentfund.co.uk or by phoning 0131 558 7706.

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GROUP NEWS

Active Living Programme

Please note that Stirling Health & Well-being Alliance will be in the following venues for the next 10 weeks:

- **Cowie - Community Centre**
Starting Tuesday, 9 September from 10 am – 11 am
- **Fallin - Alpha Centre**
Starting Wednesday, 10 September from 1 pm – 2 pm

■ Plean - Balfour Centre

Starting Monday, 15th Sept. from 10 am – 11 am

The aim is to find out what older people (aged 50+) would like to see happening in their village.

All welcome to come along and participate in the free activities. If you require further information contact Stirling Health & Well-being Alliance on 01786 445760.

Kilimanjaro is Tartan Target

Scottish children's charity Aberlour is well known for its adventurous fundraising exploits - last year intrepid volunteers trekked through the dramatic Torres del Paine in Chilean Patagonia. This year, the target is **Kilimanjaro**, at 19,344 feet Africa's highest mountain.



There they are!

*And they are doing it in kilts. In fact, **kilts are compulsory.***

This morning, we hear that the 'Kilts to Kilimanjaro' team of 20 conquered Kibo, the higher of Kilimanjaro's twin peaks, yesterday without major incident. Although just 3° south of the equator, Kibo is covered year-round with cap of ice and snow, but we have no reports of kilt-related frostbite as they make their final descent.

The team is due back in Glasgow on Tuesday. They have raised almost £5,400 for Aberlour charity.

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OTHER NEWS

New Lay Advisory Scheme Launched

In our e-Bulletin of 23rd May we reported how Central Scotland Police were recruiting volunteers to be community lay advisers.

The **Enhanced Lay Advisory Scheme** has now been launched at Force HQ in Stirling, with over 20 advisors who will help give feedback to police on a wide range of social issues. The new scheme now considers elements including religion and faith, disability, age, gender and sexual orientation as well as race.

Deputy chief constable Iain MacLeod, who will chair the new group, said: *“This is about being as inclusive in delivering a service to the communities of the Forth Valley as possible and giving people the opportunity to help us shape future policing delivery.”*

“Central Scotland Police is wholly committed to providing a service which meets the individual needs of everyone in the community irrespective of race, cultural background, ethnicity, religion and faith, sexual orientation, disability, age or gender. This group will be a key part of that commitment.”

Building Bridges Across the Equality Spectrum

Developing & Promoting Equalities in the Voluntary Sector

Free Programme

SCVO (in partnership with Engender and PATH Scotland) have secured funding from the European Structural Funds and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission for an innovative pilot project targeting the personal skills development of BME women, disabled women and women returners in the workplace, in tandem with the strategic implementation of equalities mainstreaming within third sector organisations.

The programme of support will help individuals and organisations plan and implement successful equality strategies by:

- Providing a forum to discuss and debate' contemporary equality issues.
- Sharing and providing recognition for the best practices actively promoting equality principles, practices, supporting legislation and creating a culture of inclusion.
- Developing the knowledge and skill base of individuals and organisations seeking to mainstream equalities while offering mentoring and peer support.
- Increasing knowledge and understanding of the skills required to lead/manage in the workplace.

The project commences in October 2008. Further information and application forms can be found at www.scvo.org.uk/equalities . If you would like to discuss involvement in the project either as a participant, at organisational level or as a mentor please call Linda Anderson on 0141 225 8034 or email equalities@scvo.org.uk .

The GROUPS IN FOCUS feature has been held over till next issue.

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Council for Voluntary Services - Thriving and Connecting Communities in Stirling

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