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The Social Economy is becoming increasingly relevant for the Third Sector, as more and more voluntary and charitable groups embrace the opportunities of the Social Enterprise option.

We are including a new **Social Enterprise** section in the e-Bulletin. Information, resources and opportunities will be flagged up – including local authority procurement opportunities that may be relevant to some of our member groups. This week, for example, Stirling Council is looking for a support service provision for young homeless people (see below).

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

Climate Change Seminar

A REFRESH Seminar
6th November, 1 - 2 pm
The Rock Centre

What does the science say now, and what are the implications for the Forth Valley? Places are limited and numbers are required for catering, so please book ASAP by calling 01786 462647, or email refresh@rockcommunityproject.org.uk

Discussion Event – Stirling's New Community Hospital

Forthbank Stadium, 12th November, 2-4 pm

A reminder about this important event, to which all CVSs and member organisations are invited. It will explore how to support the links between the health and voluntary sectors through the development of the future community health facility in Stirling.

This is a great opportunity both to find out how the planning process is progressing, and to make your voice heard. **Please contact CVS Stirling ASAP if you would like to come along.**

CHARITIES CHRISTMAS EVENT

Thursday 27th November 2008

3 - 7pm

**ALBERT HALL
STIRLING**

Admission: Adult - 50p Children Free

Charity Stalls & Community Café

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF AT CVS STIRLING

Event organised by:

CVS Stirling, Municipal Buildings, 8 Corn Exchange
Road STIRLING FK8 2HU

Tel: 01786 469916 email: info@cvs-stirling.org.uk



Facing the future: *New Realities in Social Care and Support*

CCPS Conference 2008

Dunblane Hydro Hotel, Dunblane

27th and 28th November



The CCPS (Community Care Providers Scotland) Conference is Scotland's premier opportunity for all those involved in developing, planning, providing, monitoring and using care and support services to share information, hear from expert speakers, learn from each other and develop contacts and networks.

This year's event will focus on the major changes in social care taking place nationally, locally and at the level of individual support: It will focus on three priority areas:

- **The Concordat:** six months into the new funding arrangements for local government, the conference will look at the impact of the move to single outcome agreements, the removal of ringfencing, and the 2% efficiency requirement, and will examine business models for providers in the new environment
- **Commissioning and Procurement:** analysing of the impact of new procurement models and service re-tendering – including the perspective of service users – and discuss commissioning for outcomes
- **Personalisation:** continuing the debate on what 'personalisation' means for individuals, services and service providers, and how it supports empowerment and citizenship.

A limited number of free or reduced rate places are available for service users, carers and small or unfunded voluntary organisations (annual income less than £25,000) - please contact the CCPS office for details.

Full details of the conference programme can be had by downloading the flyer from www.ccpscotland.org/events/documents/conferenceflyersml.pdf (Booking form at www.ccpscotland.org/events/documents/bookingform08.pdf)

Alcohol Awareness Seminar

Training Room, Forth Valley NHS, 9 Gladstone Place, Stirling

Tuesday, 2nd December, 12 – 2.30 pm

FREE

This free lunchtime seminar is aimed at promoting alcohol awareness in the workplace. Individuals who attend can take back the information and pass it on to colleagues. The programme will include a presentation of statistics, calculation of units, fitness for work, and the effects of alcohol. Questions and evaluation will follow.

For more details and an application form, contact Jenny Ewen, Health Promotion Department, on 01786 431132, email jewen@nhs.net. Applications should be returned by 21st November.

Aberlour Christmas Concert

Albert Halls, Dumbarton Road, Stirling
Sunday, 14th December, 5 pm
Tickets: £7/£9

There will be lots of festive fun for all the family at the 12th Annual Aberlour Christmas Concert in Stirling's Albert Halls.



The audience will be treated to music from young, talented musicians and singers from Alva Academy as well as the renowned Clackmannanshire and District Brass Band. Also appearing will be young dancers from the Stirling Academy of Dance.

Tickets cost £7/£9 and will be available from the Albert Hall booking office from Monday 27th October. The show starts at the earlier time of 5pm this year. We hope to see you there.

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TRAINING & RESOURCES

Promoting Diversity in Your Volunteer Programme

Dunfermline Central Library, Abbots Street, Dunfermline
Thursday, 6th November, 9.30 am - 3.30 pm

This one-day course, part of CVS Fife's Training Programme, aims to explore issues which will enable you to build diversity into your volunteer programme.

Learning outcomes:

- To increase your understanding about diversity;
- To build skills to map your organisation's profile;
- To consider how diversity issues will impact and enhance your volunteer programme;
- To gain knowledge about the benefits of partnership working with different groups within the community;
- To explore issues in working with under represented groups.

The course will benefit those with a responsibility for Volunteers, as well as Committee Members of voluntary organisations and volunteers themselves.

Course Accreditation/Award is SQA Level 7 Advanced (Selected from Courses 6-11 Managing Volunteers). For further details of this and other CVS Fife Training Courses visit www.cvsfife.org/courses/course0962.htm

Developing Diversity within a Volunteer Programme

Volunteer Development Scotland, Stirling Enterprise Park
Tuesday, 25th November, 9.45 – 4 pm



This course will explore issues relating to building diversity into a volunteer programme to increase understanding of diversity and build skills to map an organisation's profile. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

The course is part of the Volunteer Management Training programme, delivered by Volunteer Centre Falkirk in partnership with Volunteer Centre Stirling and Volunteer Development Scotland. Course costs vary depending on the income of your organisation – for more details contact Karen Sellar on 01324 692009, email karen@volunteerfalkirk.org.uk

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SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Free Short Film Explains What Social Firms Are

A new film is now available which seeks to explain what a Social Firm is to anyone unfamiliar with the concept. The three minute film, called "**Social Firms: successful businesses, empowering employment**" explains what Social Firms are in a straightforward way.

Social Firms Scotland are requesting the video be shown to as many people as possible to spread understanding of what Social Firms are. The film can be viewed for free on their website, www.socialfirms.co.uk/index.php/Section167.html and you can download it in a variety of formats. Alternatively, you can order a FREE hard copy by calling Clare Neville on 01737 764021.

Stirling Council Procurement Opportunity:

The Provision of a Support Service for Young Homeless People

Applications are invited from interested parties for the provision of a support service, based at The Bridge, for young homeless people. Contract period will be from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2012, with the option to extend to 31st March 2014

Contract award will be based on the most economically advantageous tender with a price/quality ratio of 45:55, further details of the evaluation criteria will be detailed within the Tender documentation. Estimated total value over the potential 5 year contract term is £2,500,000.

Details can be found on the Stirling Council website, www.stirling.gov.uk ; the Contract reference is SC/ENV/0538/010409/36(60).

Written applications should be addressed to: Stirling Council, Corporate Procurement, Room 304, Viewforth, Stirling FK8 2ET, FAO Scott Campbell. To submit an electronic application either email campbellsd@stirling.gov.uk or fax 01786 442984. For further information telephone 01786 443280 or Email campbellsd@stirling.gov.uk

Closing time and date for receipt of applications: 12 noon, 3rd November 2008.

Aspire to Enterprise

Aspire to Enterprise is a new pilot programme providing a range of business support services to developing social enterprises in Lowland Scotland.



To date, Aspire is working with 40 social enterprises with another 10 in the pipeline. Their target for the year is 60 social enterprises and they are optimistic that the pilot will be rolled out for another two years.

*They are particularly keen on further enquiries from Fife, **Forth Valley** and Tayside.*

If you are successful in accessing the programme you will receive a business health check, tailored to social enterprise development. You may then qualify to benefit from a programme of support to further develop the trading capacity of your organisation.

- or -

Benefit from a range of seminars designed to stimulate entrepreneurial activity for future development.

The programme is open to application from those organisations who meet the following eligibility criteria:

■ The governance criteria for social enterprise:

- ✓ derive at least some of their income from sales (at the start up stage) and 25% from sales in the case of more mature organisations;
- ✓ have a governance structure which primarily doesn't allow for profit distribution;
- ✓ have social as well as business objectives built into their legal structures;
- ✓ are independent of government

■ Are already trading

- Have a minimum total turnover of £60k per annum
- Can benefit from tailored development assistance prior to accessing mainstream support

For more details on eligibility criteria and the support available visit www.aspiretoenterprise.org.uk or call John Hughes Project development Manager on 0141 425 2939 or e-mail info@aspiretoenterprise.org.uk

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FUNDING

New Biodiversity Fund

A new £10million fund is available from Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN). This new scheme is designed to conserve ancient woodlands, grasslands, heathlands and wetlands for future generations. Biodiversity is the term given to the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms, this scheme will bring funding to support projects around the UK.



Projects requiring WREN funding must be situated within 10 miles of any licensed and registered landfill site across most parts of the UK. Environmental organisations, voluntary groups, charities, not-for-profit organisations, local authorities, governmental bodies and community groups can apply for funding as long as they have a formal constitution and bank account.

Further guidance on the application process and eligibility is available at www.wren.org.uk/how-to-apply The first deadline for applications is **30th January 2009**.

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GROUP NEWS

Sunlite Gets Grant

The Sunlite Community Cafe in Stirling's Cowane Centre has received £2,300 to introduce taster sessions and cooking workshops.

The café is one of eleven organisations in the Forth Valley to be awarded grants through Community Food and Health Scotland to help low income communities enjoy healthier food. A total of almost £18,000 has been made available. Another beneficiary is Alloa Family Centre, which was given nearly £1,400 to support women under 25 who are pregnant or have young babies. They will be offered a practical cooking and weaning course as part of an 11-week programme.

NHS Forth Valley head of Nutrition and Dietetics Morag MacKellar said, *"It's great news that NHS Forth Valley has been given so many of these grants, which will enable us to carry on leading the way and helping people."*

“It’s really important that children get the best possible start in life. That means getting good nutrition and decent meals.”

* NHS Forth Valley is holding a free **Healthy Eating Seminar** on Wednesday, 12th November (9.30 - 12 noon) at Carronvale Conference Centre, Larbert. More details and booking form from Kathleen Gilmour, Health Promotion Dept., on 017886 431130 or email kathleen.gilmour@nhs.net Applications should be in by Friday, 7th November.

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OTHER NEWS

Report on Pensioner’s Plight

A recent report by Age Concern Scotland has come up with some disturbing figures about the plight of many of our elderly.

The report, **Flagship or Flagging?** was launched to mark the 5th anniversary of Pension Credit. It found the scheme has made a noticeable difference to 82% of claimants and nearly all recipients (95%) would definitely or probably recommend it to others. Almost three quarters of those receiving Pension Credit said they worry less about essential bills - a figure significantly higher in Scotland than the rest of the UK.

*‘A third
of eligible
pensioners are
missing out on
Pension
Credit’*

However, one in eight older people (one in six of those over 80) have still not heard of Pension Credit, and the take up level remains low. A third of eligible pensioners are still missing out, and up to £2.8 billion in Pension Credit still remains unclaimed by 1.8 million pensioners.

If the benefit was paid automatically, those missing out would be on average £1,477 a year better off. Automatic payment of Pension Credit is supported by the Age Concern and by 70% of the older people surveyed.

The Report highlighted how more than half of Scotland’s older people are responding to the rising cost of living by cutting back on essentials such as heating and food. Also

- one in 10 of the poorest pensioners has been forced into debt.
- 68% of pensioners are cutting back on the amount of gas and electricity they use
- 53% are buying less or poorer quality food
- 49% are planning on cutting back their heating this winter.

The Age Concern report also warns that, unless Pension Credit take-up dramatically improves, the Government’s recent decision to reduce the period for claiming backdated benefits will further penalise the very poorest.

SCVO Monitoring the Financial Crisis

As if the Scottish voluntary sector wasn't facing enough financial difficulties, the global financial crisis is putting added strain on its sustainability. According to a recent report published by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), corporate sponsorship continues to decline, accounting for just 0.3% of the sector's income in 2006 compared with 3% in 2001. And private donations look set to fall as everyone feels the pinch.

At the same time, there will be even more need for the services delivered by voluntary organisations. Yet without financial security, many voluntary organisations will be unable to expand their services to meet these new needs and the quality of their services will be threatened by excessive demand.

It may be of some reassurance that the SCVO is monitoring the situation closely and providing up-to-the minute advice and support. It has already received a number of requests from voluntary organisations seeking information. SCVO is using a range of channels to keep voluntary organisations up-to-date on developments, including the sector's weekly newspaper, Third Force News, and its thrice-weekly e-bulletin, TFe.

SCVO also maintains an Information Helpline (email and telephone), available daily to voluntary organisations. **Helpline number: 0800 169 0022.**

The SCVO website www.scvo.org.uk carries full briefings, press releases and a lot more. CVS Stirling will also endeavour to keep its members abreast of developments via outlets like the e-Bulletin and website.

* SCVO has issued a call to its 1,300 members for information on the amount of money they have in accounts with **Icelandic Banks**, how much their levels of reserves or investment have fallen as a result of the financial crisis, and whether they have been affected by the financial crisis in other ways - i.e. loss of sponsorship or private sector support.

Charity Fundraisers Busy in Forth Valley

... and as we enter a winter of financial gloom and doom, looming recession and an uncertain future for the Third Sector, it's heartening to remember there are still people out there giving of their time, effort and cash.

Here are just some examples of what volunteers, donors and businesses across the Forth Valley have been achieving in recent weeks –

- ⇒ Dobbies Garden Centre raised £620 for Stirling Royal's **Cystic Fibrosis Clinic** at a Christmas Charities Evening.
- ⇒ The Stirling-based building and maintenance firm Rok raised more than £1,000 through sponsorship and donations for **The Prostate Cancer Charity** and **MacMillan Cancer Care**.

- ⇒ Specsavers in Murray Place was among hundreds of stores which held donation days for Zambia's first combined optometric training centre and **eyecare clinic**. Customers helped raise £2,2000.
- ⇒ Kate Griffin from Bannockburn was one of 20 models at a fashion show in Glasgow which raised £235,000 for the charity **Breast Cancer Care**.
- ⇒ The annual 'world's biggest coffee morning' for **Macmillan Cancer Support** saw a flurry of fundraising activity throughout Stirling and Clackmannanshire. For example - staff and pupils at Alva Academy raised more than £6,000 in their day-long event; staff at Wallace High brought in home baking and sold them to colleagues, gleaning more than £100; a coffee morning at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum raised more than £200; a coffee morning in the Victoria Hall in Dunblane, organised by the Dunblane RSVP Knitting Group, raised £303.52.
- ⇒ A recent fundraising event at the Sheriffmuir Inn raised more that £4,000 for the **Scottish Cot Death Trust**.

In big ways or small, they're all making a difference.

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REMINDER: Please let us know your views (by phone, email, letter) on having an *e-Bulletin Letters Section*. Whether we go ahead with this will depend on the level of interest registered.

Council for Voluntary Services - Thriving and Connecting Communities in Stirling

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