

CVS Stirling e-Bulletin 13th Mar. 2009



In this issue:

- ⇒ **FORTHCOMING
EVENTS**
- ⇒ **VOLUNTEERING &
EMPLOYMENT**
- ⇒ **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**
- ⇒ **FUNDING**
- ⇒ **GROUP NEWS**
- ⇒ **OTHER NEWS**

CVS Stirling is on the move!

Yes, our much-anticipated flit to new premises is about to become a reality, and from Monday, 16th March our address will be:

**Norman McEwan Centre, Cameronian Street,
Upper Craigs, Stirling FK8 2DX.**

It's a refurbished ground floor office complex, centrally located, with easy, walk-in access from the street. We will have as neighbours the Council on Disability and the Citizens Advice Bureau - all in the same block.

Inevitably, a move like this will involve disruption. Installing phones, cabling and networking will take several weeks, and though we will do our best to provide 'business as usual', delays and interruptions to services are unavoidable. So, bear with us please!

During the time our phone and email connections are out of service, we will provide an interim phone number for contact. This will be made available next week.

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

'Scottish Ring'

Dunblane Cathedral, The Cross, Dunblane
Monday, 18th March, 7.30pm

Admission at the door: £5 (£4 concessions,
free for children)

Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers present a concert in aid of Stirling Royal Infirmary **Healthy Hearts Club**, which supports former patients of the cardiac rehabilitation programme. The concert will be a celebration of well-loved Scottish music. For more information phone: 01786 825387 or email handbells@dunblanecathedral.org.uk



Open Meeting -

Stirling Community Health Partnership, Public Partnership Forum

"The place for public dialogue about Health and Community support"

Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, Royal Infirmary, Stirling

18th March, 6pm for 6.30pm start – 9.00pm
Light refreshments available.

An important part of the introduction of **Community Health Partnerships** (CHPs) is its aim to inform and involve local people. This will mainly happen through the activities of the **Public Partnership Forum** (PPF) for the Stirling area. This Forum will provide a number of ways for you/your organisation to become involved, from receiving information on a regular basis to becoming a representative on the CHP.

This meeting's topics will be:

- NHS 24
- NHS Forth Valley Out Of Hours Service
- An update on Primary Care Services for Stirling City

A further purpose of the meeting will be the appointment to the post (currently vacant) of a Deputy Public Partnership Forum Representative (see [VOLUNTEERING & EMPLOYMENT](#) below).

If you are interested in attending, please contact Jessie-Anne Malcolm, PPF Development Coordinator, on 01324 614660 or e-mail: jessie.malcolm@fvpc.scot.nhs.uk. Also, if you have any special requirements to help you take part or require the services of an interpreter, please let her know about these when you get in touch.

Come along on the 18th March and have your say!

[Back to top](#)

VOLUNTEERING & EMPLOYMENT

Public Partnership Forum Representative, Stirling Community Health Partnership

If you would like to be put yourself forward as a Public Partnership Representative on the CHP Committee, come along to the meeting on 18th March (*see above*) and please do the following:

Prepare a short profile in support of your interest in becoming a Public Partnership Forum Representative with ***a range of words and/or pictures that represent you***. You might include things like:

- Who I am? - my hobbies, interests, passions
- What previous experiences I have had in life/work that will help in the role of PPF Representative.
- What skills and talents I can bring as a PPF Representative.

(Please put anything you want on the page that you think will say something about you – don't worry if you can't draw – we only want you to try).

If you would prefer to give a verbal profile of yourself then this would also be acceptable at the event.

[Back to top](#)

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

DIRECTORY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

'Funding for Sustainable Change'

This report by the Directory of Social Change explores the extent to which grant-making trusts fund campaigning, advocacy and influence.

Grant-making trusts have a crucial role to play in supporting voluntary organisations to campaign and achieve sustainable change. But 'sustainable change' is a broad concept; encompassing a wide range of social, economic and environmental activities, and is difficult to define. As a consequence, voluntary organisations may not realise their potential to engage in campaigning activity and find it difficult to identify sources of support.

The DSC's research maps the potential for funding sustainable change amongst grant-making trusts, and the extent to which funding is available - it also highlights possible barriers to such funding.

The full Report can be found on the DSC website www.dsc.org.uk/NewsandInformation

[Back to top](#)

FUNDING

Steel Charitable Trust

The Steel Charitable Trust is a grant-making trust supporting a range of charitable purposes, one of which is the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science. Grants of between £1,000 and £25,000 are made to registered charities in the UK. (The Trust does not fund individuals or expeditions.) For full details on how to apply visit www.steelcharitabletrust.org.uk

Read the small print!

Applying for grants is easier when you know what you're getting in to

Small print exists for a reason and charities could save precious time by taking note, says the director of policy and research at Directory of Social Change, who is calling for a sector-wide debate on problems facing charities when applying for grants.

Ineligible applications are frustrating for applicants and funders alike. Research carried out by the DSC showed that for central government grant programmes an average of 48 per cent of applications were found to be ineligible **at the first assessment stage**.

That's to say, they weren't necessarily poor quality, or poor ideas, or too expensive, or unlikely to succeed – they were simply ineligible.

Examples included:

- an organisation based in Wales applying for funds only available to English organisations,
- a non-charitable group applying for funds only accessible to registered charities
- an application for £100,000, when there was a clear limit set of £20,000.

Applicants are constantly reminded to “read the guidance” but in many cases the message fails to get through, or is even ignored.

But funders too can be to blame. Their criteria should be clear, accessible and easy to understand, but sadly, this isn't always the case. Sometimes ineligible applications stem from irresponsible fundraising, and sometimes from poor information provided by funders.

Of course funders vary greatly in their application processes, and in the amount and nature of information they provide to prospective applicants. At one end of the scale you have small grant making trusts that provide no more than a couple of paragraphs about themselves and their priorities, and on the other you have government departments that present enough guidance and related policy documentation to tie up applicants for days before they are ready to even start drafting an application.

So here's the advice:

Applicants: Read the guidance! Then read it again. If you're not eligible don't take a punt, it's not just *your* time you're wasting.

Funders: Don't just chuck ineligible applications in the bin - use them to get a feel for what kind of ineligible applications you are attracting and work on improving guidance published by you and others.

The above was based on an article on the Professional Fundraising website – subscribers can read the whole text at www.professionalfundraising.co.uk/home/content.php?id=1638

Cash for Your Group

The Voluntary Action Fund (VAF), the independent charitable grant making trust which invests in voluntary and community based organisations across Scotland, has announced that the **Community Chest** has reopened for new applications.

The Community Chest, a new grant funded by the Scottish Government, is aimed at smaller community groups and voluntary organisations. It will provide grants of up to £1,000 and free training to groups with an annual income under £25,000.

Groups can apply for funding for a wide range of activities or operational costs, in particular activities that will help build and develop strong organisations. Examples might be: training for committee members and volunteers, visits to other organizations or conferences, or professional support and consultancy.

In addition, there is funding for groups working with disability or health related issues, groups whose beneficiaries suffer exclusion due to ethnicity, disability, gender, or sexual orientation, and groups who provide childcare.

Applications for the Community Chest programme are welcome throughout the year with deadlines on **31st March, 30th June, 30th September and 31st December.**

You can download the application form/ guidance notes from the VAF website at www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk. Alternatively contact Patricia or Chris at the Voluntary Action Fund, either by telephone on 01383 620780 or by e-mail at Patricia.McKibben@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk.

Grants to Boost Healthy Diets

Community Food and Health (Scotland) has an annual small grants scheme available for groups and agencies in Scotland who wish to improve access to, and take up of a healthy, varied and balanced diet. Grants from £500 to £3,000 are available, and grant recipients are expected to spend their grant money within one year.

All applications must involve working with or within Scotland's low-income communities to improve access to - and take up of - a healthy, varied and balanced diet. And they must tackle one or more of the barriers to healthy eating that were first outlined in the Scottish Diet Action Plan (1996), namely **Availability** (*eg lack of access to good, cheap fruit and vegetables*), **Affordability** (*eg such as the cost of getting to the shops as well as of shopping*), **Skills** (*eg lack of confidence and skills for cooking or shopping*), **Culture** (*eg long established poor dietary habits, reluctance to experiment*).

The 2009 small grant scheme will open on 21 April 2009. Successful applicants usually receive their grants by the autumn. Details of the scheme can be found on the website www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk/funding/smallgrants.php

[Back to top](#)

GROUP NEWS

Campaign Group's Whirlwind Success



One of CVS Stirling's most recent member groups has proved to be one of its most dynamic. In fact, they have already achieved their primary objective, and all in a matter of a couple of weeks.

C.A.R.E, which stands for 'Campaign Against Residents' Eviction', was set up in response to Stirling's Council's controversial decision to close Wellgreen and Beech Gardens care homes. The move caused concern about the potential effects on up to 40 vulnerable elderly residents, as well as for the future of care home staff.



Neina Keenan (right) and Lorna Smith were the prime movers behind C.A.R.E.

They were unanimously elected as Chair and Secretary respectively at the launch meeting on March 3rd.

The new campaign 'hit the ground running'. At a relatives' meeting in the Albert Halls on March 3rd, it emerged that though it had only been going for one week, C.A.R.E. had already attracted widespread interest and support both from individuals and from organisations such as Age Concern. The unions Unison and Unite also threw their weight behind the campaign.

To cut a short story even shorter, the upshot has been a U-turn by the Council. On Tuesday, they announced that Wellgreen and Beech Grove closures will not proceed.

This is expected to be ratified at a full Council meeting next week. (The Public Meeting CARE had arranged for Thursday 12th March, and which was expected to attract massive support, has been cancelled.)

But this success doesn't mean C.A.R.E. is about to disappear. The group intends to continue championing the cause of care for the elderly, and will be meeting in a week's time to decide how best to carry this forward. If you would like to take part in C.A.R.E, make a donation, or simply find out more, phone 07794881914 or 07906972695, or email caresirling@btinternet.com. The CVS Stirling [website](#) has a link to C.A.R.E.

Whatever your views on the care homes issue, C.A.R.E.'s story certainly shows how a few dedicated people with a clear agenda can quickly mobilise support and effect change.

[Back to top](#)

OTHER NEWS

TFN Scottish Charity Awards 2009

Proud of your achievements? Want your hard work recognised? Then enter the TFN Scottish Charity Awards!

The Awards are an excellent opportunity to celebrate success and get your charity's work recognised. Whether you're a household name or a tiny grassroots project, we want to hear from you!

Award categories are:

- **Charity of the Year** - For an organisation that has made significant achievements in the last year
- **Campaign of the Year** - For an advertising/media campaign that brought a single issue to public recognition
- **Charity Champion** - For an individual who has gone above and beyond to advance the role of the voluntary sector.
- **Partnership Award** - For work between a voluntary sector organisation and public or private sector partner that has helped support the sector or a local community
- **Community Action Award** - A local or community group that has made significant achievements in the last year

The TFN Scottish Charity Awards will be held on 11 June 2009 as part of the SCVO Gala Dinner. For tickets or to find out more about the SCVO annual dinner contact

awards@scvo.org.uk

Deadline for entering the awards is 17th April. Application forms and entrance criteria can be downloaded from

www.scvo.org.uk/scvocms/images/TFN%20Scottish%20Charity%20Awards%20entry%20form.doc

Young People and Governance – a survey

The British Youth Council, on behalf of **Participation Works**, is carrying out a short survey for organisations about young people and governance of third sector organizations. (*Participation Works is a consortium of six leading children and young people's organisations to "provide expert advice to anyone wanting to give a voice to children and young people".*)

The survey aims to find out current levels of involvement, what has or hasn't changed in the area, and what the views of young people are on this topic. The survey, which will only take up to 5 minutes to complete, can be found at

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=qUiFtPq_2bJZVrfa25SWfDkA_3d_3d

The survey will close on the 27th March

*** Overheard at the World Volunteer Conference**

In response to the observation that volunteers are too often seen as amateurs: "*Just remember: Noah's Ark was built by amateurs. The Titanic was built by professionals.*"

Volunteers Unappreciated?

A survey commissioned by the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service discovered that 57% of British public believe volunteers do not get enough appreciation. **The UK-wide survey also revealed that Scotland had the highest proportion of people volunteering at least once a week: 23%.**

The poll of 2,041 people showed that 57% thought that local groups of volunteers were not shown enough appreciation for their work. 47% of volunteers said they gained a "sense of personal achievement and satisfaction". 37% cent said they did it because they wanted to improve the local community and help people.

[Back to top](#)

AND FINALLY...

Winner of the Valentine's Day Competition is Joan Macpherson, who provided the following answer to our enquiry, "*How many volunteers does it take to change a light bulb?*" Answer : **Six** - cos,

1. you can't afford an electrician,
2. you could get done for using a ladder without the proper health and safety certificate,
3. **it's more fun doing things together!**



Congratulations to Joan for her positive and upbeat solution – a nice change from some of the downright cynical suggestions we received (*yes, you know who you are!*)