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In the last issue, we painted a rather doom-and-gloom picture of the current state of our voluntary sector, but pointed out the weather looked promising. Well, the weather has definitely taken a turn for the worse – and the sector is showing more than a few signs of life!

Lots of conferences, training and other events coming up, many of them free. Please make sure you sign up (or register your interest) in plenty time to be sure of places – and to get the best deals. If you haven't booked yet for the Forth Valley launch of the Big Lottery Fund *Investing In Communities Programme* (25th August), don't delay – we've attached another Booking Form at the end of this eBulletin.

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.

GROUP NEWS

CAB launch Eastern Villages Advice and Education Project

An exciting new outreach project from Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau started this week in the Eastern Village of Cowie.



The **Financial Literacies Outreach project** seeks to provide advice, information and support to the people and organisations in the Eastern Villages of Cowie, Plean, Fallin and Throsk on:

- Credit, Debt and Financial awareness, by delivering Stirling CABs “Cash Course”
- Income Maximisation and Benefit entitlement
- Signposting for resolution to money problems

The project has established a drop-in advice surgery on Mondays in the **Cowie Credit Union** (10am – 12.30pm, no appointment necessary), and hopes to be able to start offering home visits to those unable to come to the surgeries. Surgeries will also be developed in **Plean** and **Fallin**.

The project, funded initially for one year by the financial sector and Citizens Advice Scotland, aims to build awareness of the pitfalls of Credit and Debt and to develop money management and awareness to prevent future problems. Stirling CAB hopes the project will succeed in helping and supporting people during these difficult economic times.

Stirling CAB seeks to deliver the information in the local Primary and Secondary schools and through talks to community and church groups in the Eastern Villages.

Craig Anderson, Stirling CAB Manager, commented:

“We are absolutely delighted that Cowie Credit Union, Cowie Community Council and Stirling Council have welcomed our service into the heart of their community, recognising that money and benefit issues are a major concern for many local people. We will do our very best to deliver a high quality service.”

Jacqui Gibson, the CAB Outreach worker says:

“I am delighted to be able to bring this service to Cowie and would encourage anyone in the Cowie area to come along and make sure they are receiving all the help available to them. I would also hope that we help build the communities understanding of the world of credit, debt and money management.”

Brian Smith, Secretary of Cowie Community Council stated:

“This is a great idea and much needed in the Eastern Villages; Cowie Community Council are delighted to help.”

* If you would like the CAB to deliver some or all of the Cash Course to your class/group. please contact Jacqui on 07807 665299 or email jacquigibson@stirlingcab.casonline.org.uk

* If you would like advice on Income Maximisation or Benefits, please drop in to the Old School House, Main Street, Cowie on a Monday between 10am – 12.30pm.

Artreach: a New Project from Artlink Central

Artreach, an innovative new project from Artlink Central has been launched to meet the needs of Stirling-based adults with learning disabilities, offering them the chance to access the arts based on their experience, talent and access needs.



For years, Artlink Central have been delivering drama and music to a small group of adults with learning disabilities. Now they have secured funding to spread access to the arts across urban and rural area – and they have the benefit of offering visual arts for the first time.

A new team of artists will, over ten months, develop support for those with complex needs to express themselves help artists to create and present their work for wider audiences. They have spent the last few weeks meeting groups and individuals throughout Stirling district, and delivered taster sessions in Stirling and Callander to people with learning disabilities.

The project will culminate in a festival showcasing the work created through Artreach.

If you wish to learn more about this project please don't hesitate to get in contact with a member of our Artreach team by email info@artlinkcentral.org or by phone: 01780 450971. You can find out more about the work of Artlink Central on their website at www.artlinkcentral.squarespace.com/

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EVENTS & TRAINING

FREE Business Gateway Workshops

July

28th - **Funding/ Credit Scoring**
9.30am - 12.30pm, Stirling



28th - **Advertising & Promotion**
6pm - 9pm, Stirling

This course considers the various advertising options available, looks at what's cost-effective and what's not when it comes to spend and will help delegates formulate a basic advertising strategy.

August

3rd & 4th - **Book Keeping**
6pm - 9pm, Stirling

The golden rule of setting up a system to manage your finances is that it should be simple and methodical. This course will teach you the fundamentals and at the same time equip you with a new skill for life.

10th - **Sales Presentation Skills**
9.30am - 12.30pm, Stirling

12th, 26th - **Business Advice Clinic**
2pm - 4pm, Callander

27th - **What you need to know before starting your website**
9.30am - 12.30pm, Stirling

31st - **Employment Issues, A fair dismissal and how to do it**
9.30am - 12.30pm – Stirling

For more information on the above workshops contact STEP on 01786 463416 or email adavidson@stirling-enterprise.co.uk

Quality Action Group brings out Summer Programme

Quality Action Group, which is run by and for adults with learning disabilities who live in the Stirling Council area, have brought out their Rural Programme for July – September this year.

It's chock full of a wide range of activities covering recreation and learning. You can download the Programme brochure for the Rural (and Urban) Services from the QAG website:

www.qualityactiongroup.org.

Training on the Protection of Vulnerable Adults Scheme

CRBS, Volunteer Development Scotland, Forthside Way, Stirling

Dates in August and September

FREE



The Central Register Body for Scotland (CRBS) is offering a comprehensive training programme to meet the needs of all voluntary sector organisations wishing to access disclosure certificates for paid and unpaid staff working with children and/or adults at risk.

Training sessions are tailored to meet the needs of both non-enrolled and enrolled organisations and cover all issues relevant to the disclosure process.

Training covers the *Protection of Vulnerable Groups Act* and the new Protection of Vulnerable Groups disclosure scheme, which will go live towards the end of 2010.

⇒ **Signatory Training – Half Day Session**

This session is for both newly enrolled and existing lead person's and signatories who are looking for further support, information and guidance

⇒ **Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 (PVG) Training - Full Day Session**

This training is aimed at organisations enrolled with CRBS to ensure they are prepared and understand their requirements and obligations under the new PVG Scheme.

⇒ **General Awareness Training - Half Day Session**

This session is suitable for individuals/organisations who are wishing to enrol with CRBS.

To book a place, or for more information on training courses, visit the CRBS website at www.crbs.org.uk/?dm_i=7XU,7213,1MD7B0,HJ3D,1 or call 01786 849777 and select option 3.

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RESOURCES

'Stirling Life'

Do you have any events coming up in November/December you would like to publicise? **Stirling Life** is a new project being developed as a single point of reference for everything that is going on in and around Stirling.

It will carry the very latest Stirling news, as well as lots of information about the city - things to do, where to stay, where to eat, drink and shop, what the local weather is like, as well as what is going in the local business world.

Stirling Life will launch in November – if you have information for them (news items, events etc) just contact Fiona, email fionabavs@hotmail.com

New Mentoring Scheme from Planning Aid

Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS) has launched a new mentoring scheme to help community groups take advantage of local resources in areas such as renewable energy, community centres and allotments.



The launch of the scheme demonstrates the growth and development of Planning Aid for Scotland and the increasing demand for impartial planning advice, information and support. Robert Patrick, the new PAS Mentoring Co-ordinator, said,

“Understanding the planning system is vital for community groups who want to develop their local resources for the benefit of local people, in areas such as renewable energy, allotments and community centres. The new Planning Mentoring Scheme links PAS with voluntary sector CVS organisations and will provide planning advice and guidance to community projects across rural Scotland.

Key to the scheme is the PAS role in helping to empower people in an independent and impartial way. This new initiative will guide and provide technical expertise to projects at different stages of their development.

The unique PAS network of volunteers, all planning professionals, will provide guidance and advice, demonstrating the positive side of planning that allows people to shape their own neighbourhoods.”

The PAS Mentoring scheme is funded by the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland, through the Supporting Voluntary Action Programme, being administered by SCVO (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations).

For more information on the Planning Mentoring Scheme, please email Robert Patrick, our Mentoring Co-ordinator on rob@planningaidscotland.org.uk or call him on 0131 220 9739.



‘MAN & VAN’ Deals for Charities

The removals/deliveries company MoveUrStuff, which operates throughout the Forth Valley, the UK and Europe, has **special rates for charities** throughout 2010. For information on their ‘man and van’ services, visit www.moveurstuff.co.uk or call 0800 612 6632.

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FUNDING & AWARDS

Lush Charity Pot

Lush Charity Pot supports animal welfare and human rights projects. They give grants of up to £10,000 to small charities and community groups working in the areas of:

- Environment/ Conservation
- Animal protection
- Human rights

For more information [visit their website](#).

CashBack for Communities Funding Workshop

Raploch Community Campus, Drip Road,
27th July, 7 – 9 pm

A series of **CashBack for Communities Funding Workshops** will be held across the country from next week until mid August. The Stirling event on 27th July is for organisations based in Stirling, Clacks & Falkirk, and the facilitator will be Dougie Peddie, Senior Grants Officer.

These workshops will be helpful to first time applicants thinking of applying for a CashBack for Communities award.

Places are limited at each session, therefore booking is essential. Participants can take part in any of the workshops available, i.e. Glasgow groups can attend an Edinburgh workshop.

Contact Dougie Peddie or Hazel Selby on 0131 313 2488, email dpeddie@youthlinkscotland.org or [book online](#) at www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=BmsCj%2b80TqDrLjnTp%2bLXGCNURIJgwXPxkBh%2ble1TIS0%3d&

- * NB. The Application Form and Guidance Notes for Round 4 of the CashBack for Communities Fund are now available for downloading using the following link:
[CASHBACK FOR COMMUNITIES FUND ROUND 4 WEB PAGE](#)

Local Funding Survey

Open 4 Community, the online funding portal for Stirling communities, want to find out how successful its service has been to date. To this end, they are asking users to complete a quick (4-question) survey to tell about their experiences. Feedback will contribute towards the ongoing development of our service.



[Click HERE to take part now](#) or go to www.open4community.info/stirling1/Page.aspx?SP=6756 .

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SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

‘Equally Enterprising’

Equally Enterprising is an innovative new project to support Scotland’s equality-focused third sector organisations to become stronger and more effective.



Strengthening organisations that focus on equalities

It will help organisations to move beyond grant-based income towards ‘earned income’ from products, contracts and service level agreements.

Find out more about Equally Enterprising and have a look at the **Online Guide** at <http://equallyenterprising.ning.com/page/online-guide-index> .

Realising Potential – next steps for social enterprise in Scotland

Strathclyde Suite, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

2nd September, 9 am – 4.15 pm

Organised by CEiS, in partnership with RBS, The Big Lottery, Scottish Government, Kibble, The Wise Group, HIE and Lanarkshire Enterprise Services, this year’s Scottish social enterprise annual conference: **Realising Potential – next steps for social enterprise in Scotland**, will bring together social enterprise leaders, practitioners, supporters and policy makers to establish a vision for social enterprise in our communities.

As we face the longer term impact of the global financial crisis, there is an opportunity to understand where support has been effective in delivering growth and creating value. Speakers will highlight best practice, as well as reflecting the potential of social enterprise to deliver national and local outcomes and fulfil its potential in rural and urban communities in Scotland.

Innovative methods of gathering feedback and vision forming will be used to produce an account of participant thoughts, views and recommendations.

Among the groups the Conference will attract will be:

- ⇒ Social Enterprise Leaders and Practitioners
- ⇒ Strategic Agencies and Intermediary Organisations
- ⇒ Policy Makers and Government Officials
- ⇒ **Third Sector Organisations and Intermediaries**
- ⇒ International guest contributors
- ⇒ International Participants from Finland
- ⇒ British Council International Participants

Download the programme brochure at

http://www.ceis.org.uk/file/september_2nd_programme.pdf, and book a place by registering online at <http://www.ceis.org.uk/event-management.html#Current-Events>

If you have any questions or are interested in booking an exhibition stand at the conference please contact CEiS Events on 0141 425 2923 or e-mail eventmanagement@ceis.org.uk

'Leading in Change' Programme

The Supporting Voluntary Action programme is aimed at developing those organisations involved in the developing Single Interface Partnerships. It is comprised of seven interconnecting strands covering all aspects of organisational development and change management. The strands are at various stages of development.

Leading in Change is currently offering the opportunity to participate in a number of Learning Events in the late Summer. These are to be held at various places across Scotland and will support the CEOs and Chairs of the single interface organisations to develop and enhance their leadership and management skills. The Learning Events are residential and the work completed will lead to an accredited award.

There are to be four residentials across the country to discuss and develop the Business Plans for the Single Interfaces. They will be delivered by the Social Enterprise Academy. For details visit <http://senscot.org/docs/LeadinginChangeinfo.pdf>

Other opportunities within the SVA Programme for SENs involved in or working towards Single Interface status are available have been provided by Sally Dyson, SVA Programme Manager, who will also be attending the Network Reps meeting in September.

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OTHER NEWS

'NHS Inform' to Launch

NHS inform – the new national health information service for Scotland - is set to launch this August.

The new service will in the first instance provide the public, patients and carers with a wide range of quality-assured health information online at www.nhsinform.co.uk, on the telephone (0800 22 44 88) and face-to-face. It will be the first time all of this type of information has been brought together in one place.

The telephone and online services, provided by NHS 24, will be the first to go live, on **3rd August**. Lynne Huckerby, head of the NHS inform team, said:

"This has been a challenging project as we have been working with a broad range of stakeholders to bring together a range of quality assured information in one place which is really unprecedented in Scotland.

By working in close partnership with partners, the inform team have succeeded in shaping a service that, when fully operational, will be arguably one of the best health information resources available in Scotland today."

The website will draw on information from NHS24.com, NHS Choices, and a number of approved external resources, to one central, easily accessible point, for the people of Scotland.

At launch, the site will feature elements such as:

- An updated and expanded Health A-Z
- Common health questions
- Links to local information across Scotland
- Behind the headlines feature – looking at the health issues making the news and the truth behind the claims
- The site will also link with Health in My Language www.healthinmylanguage.com a portal to translated information about health and health services in Scotland

Among the many partners involved in the programme are Macmillan Cancer Support, Minority Ethnic Carers of Older Peoples' Project (MECOPP), the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disabilities and a range of other voluntary sector partners.

If you have any questions about NHS inform, contact the team at nhs.inform@nhs24.scot.nhs.uk, email c.whitfield@hull.ac.uk or visit the SHRC website www.scottishhumanrights.com

Voluntary Sector Health Manifesto – *help shape the agenda*

Voluntary Health Scotland plans to distil the broad aspirations and concerns of the sector into a **Manifesto for Health** to influence Scotland's political party health agendas in the run-up to the Scottish Elections in May 2011.

They are looking for *your* ideas and priorities for the sector in relation to health and health services. Please note however that, as they are working at strategic level, VHS will focus on the broad picture, leaving particular “asks” for services to individual and thematically-focused organisations.

Please send your ideas (**before Monday, 2nd August**) to helen.tyrrell@vhscotland.org.uk. VHS will then consult further on your priorities, with a view to creating the Manifesto for Health by mid-September.

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Council for Voluntary Services - Thriving and Connecting Communities in Stirling
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**Big Lottery Fund – Investing In Communities Programme
Forth Valley Launch Event**

Booking form

Name:.....

Group/organisation:

Address:.....

.....

Tel no: **Email:**.....

Special requirements (e.g. access, hearing loop,)

.....

I would like to book a place at the information session: *(please tick as appropriate)*

10am – 11.30am

12 noon – 1.30pm

2.15pm – 3.45pm

Please send/email your booking to the External Funding Unit, Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, Falkirk Council, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk, FK1 5RS
or email: funding@falkirk.gov.uk
or phone 01324 506065/506260.