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As delegates mingled and chatted round the buffet tables after last Wednesday's AGM, the buzz was that it had been a highly successful event. This was in large part due to the contribution of the Guest Speaker, Anne McGuire MP, who spoke from deep experience of the voluntary sector on topics of pressing relevance and importance to us all. Our thanks to her, and to everyone who attended.

A warm welcome to two new members of the CVS Stirling Board of Directors, Dianne Jackson and Zahir Haider. Their combined experience and expertise will be a valuable resource for CVS, and we look forward to their contribution in steering us forward.

*See below (Group News) for a summary of the AGM proceedings.*

Comments and suggestions for the [website](#) and e-Bulletin are welcome.

Emails to: [lee.stevenson@cvs-stirling.org.uk](mailto:lee.stevenson@cvs-stirling.org.uk) or [donald.saunders@cvs-stirling.org.uk](mailto: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

### 'Your Health...Your Community'

#### **Stirling Public Partnership Forum Meeting**

Lecture Theatre, Royal Infirmary, Stirling

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30 pm (for 7 pm start) – 9 pm

The next meeting of Stirling's Public Partnership Forum will focus on

- The Future of Mental Health Services across NHS Forth Valley
- Mental Health & Wellbeing Provision in the Voluntary Sector across the Stirling Area
- Adult Support and Protection

***The meeting will also address the election of a Deputy Public Partnership Forum Representative (Post currently Vacant)***

Please let us know if you would like to attend this meeting. Also if you need crèche facilities to enable you to attend or have any other special requirements or require interpreter services, **or if you are interested in becoming a Deputy PPF Representative**, please get in touch with Jessie-Anne Malcolm, phone 01324 614660 or e-mail [jessie.malcolm@fvpc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:jessie.malcolm@fvpc.scot.nhs.uk)

## Mental Health Week

4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October



**Scottish Mental Health Awareness Week** is coming soon - it runs from 4<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> October. Every year organisations and individuals up and down the country put a huge amount of effort into organising events during the week and this year the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) wants to provide a place where you can publicise your events.

So if you are planning something for this year's Mental Health Awareness Week, whether big or small, please let them know about it. All events will be listed on the SAMH website, [www.samh.org.uk](http://www.samh.org.uk) For further information contact Anne Mathie, email [anne.mathie@samh.org.uk](mailto:anne.mathie@samh.org.uk) , phone 0141 568 7032.

## Social Return on Investment (SROI) Information Session

Mayfield Community Centre, St Ninians, Stirling

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 10 am – 12 pm

FREE (Lunch provided).



ForthSector

Development

Voluntary Sector  
Health  
Partnership  
Forth Valley in  
Partnership with  
Forth Sector  
Development

**Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis** is a process of understanding, measuring and reporting on the social, environmental and economic value created by an organisation or project.

Involving stakeholders is central to this, and there is a clear process for involving people based on social and environmental procedures. By analysing components such as inputs, outputs, outcomes and impacts SROI analysis can provide organisations with an understanding of how they actually achieve their aims and affect change.

The potential benefits of SROI analysis are to:-

- **Create social value:** as a management tool, to track projections, improve performance, inform budgeting and highlight added value in competitive tendering for instance.
- **Improve accountability:** provide numbers and a story to support the numbers combining qualitative and quantitative approaches.
- **Provide better information** for future decision making: giving important information on existing activities, areas of weakness and where unanticipated beneficial impacts have occurred.
- **Focus** on critical impacts: SROI provides a relatively quick and effective way to learn about the change a project or organisation creates.

The Scottish Government aims to ensure widespread awareness and knowledge of SROI among third sector organisations, funders, commissioners and accounting bodies, and promote its adoption as a means of measuring social impact and communicating value creation.

Come to find out how SROI can benefit *your* organisation and the support and training you can get. To book a place, please contact Vicky on 01324 692010 or [vicky@cvsfalkirk.org.uk](mailto:vicky@cvsfalkirk.org.uk) .

## Equalities: from vertical to horizontal

Renfield Centre, Glasgow

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> October, 9.45 am – 3.30 pm

(Lunch and refreshments provided)



Organisations working with equalities strive to become experts in their field, for instance, disability equality or gender based discrimination. But new legislation and evolving understanding of equality and diversity mean that there is a legal imperative to work *across* equality strands, and many organisations now accept it is best practice to embrace a more collective approach.

This workshop is aimed at organisations that want to go beyond single equalities strands to explore equalities from a person-centred approach. It will help people and groups work across their individual specialisations towards a single aim of valuing equality and diversity for everyone.

The workshop, the first in a projected series, will start by:

- Sharing experience, who we mainly work with and what we do
- Looking at models for working across equality strands
- Identifying common values in relation to equality and diversity

Further workshops are planned to look at working in partnership and tendering for services and the implications for those who are concerned about equality.

For information contact Rhona Morris [rhona.morris@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk](mailto:rhona.morris@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk) , phone 01383 620780. (Please note that places are limited, and Projects funded through the VAF Equalities Programme will take priority.)

## Stronger Communities: Wealthier and Fairer Scotland

Stirling Management Centre, Stirling University

Tuesday 10 November 2009, 10.30am to 4.00pm

(registration from 10.00am)

COST (including lunch): Voluntary and community groups:

£40; other organisations: £60

The logo for Community Development Alliance Scotland, featuring the text "COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE SCOTLAND" in white on a blue rectangular background.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
ALLIANCE SCOTLAND

Our communities make a fundamental contribution to making Scotland a wealthier and fairer place to live. Especially in the current economic situation, it is essential to recognise and strengthen their role.

The social capital that exists in strong and resilient communities helps people to survive and overcome difficult times. Community learning and development can help to build this resilience. Communities can play a crucial role in practical action, creating alternative skills and jobs and helping people cope with reductions in income. Social enterprise can help put us on a sustainable path for the future, but the basis for it first needs to be built within communities.

The conference from **Community Development Alliance Scotland** (in association with **Senscot**) will bring together people from all sectors to explore experience and ideas about how to strengthen communities and enhance their contribution to these objectives.

Reserve your place online at

[www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=fxXA6KHXWH5MWrSnSx3vUQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=fxXA6KHXWH5MWrSnSx3vUQ_3d_3d)

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## TRAINING & RESOURCES

### Dedicated Health-Related Events Page on Web

A useful resource from Voluntary Health Scotland, the **VHS events page** has details of forthcoming Scottish conferences, seminars and workshops all together in one handy place.



You can search by date, location or topic keyword through one of the most comprehensive lists of health-related events in Scotland so you need never again miss out on valuable learning opportunities.

**And you can add *your* events to the page free of charge if you send in the details.**

You can visit the VHS events page at [www.vhscotland.org/events/events.html](http://www.vhscotland.org/events/events.html)

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## FUNDING & AWARDS

### Fuserna Foundation

FUSERNA  
FOUNDATION

The Fuserna Foundation, formed in February 2005, supports charities and community groups throughout the UK with a wide range of aims. Grants of up to £15,000 are available to help revitalize charities and charitable projects that are failing in their objectives due to financial constraints and or lack of exposure and publicity.

It offers support for a wide range of activities including:

- projects that alleviate poverty and financial hardship
- projects that relieve sickness and poor health
- enabling people to reach their potential despite social, physiological or environmental barriers
- helping local communities to improve their area
- caring for people suffering from mental or physical illness

The Foundation focuses on supporting smaller charities and unpopular causes where any donation made can make a real and sustained impact. As a general rule, they will not support charities that have annual incoming resources in excess of £3,000,000.

More information, including application process, is available at the Fuserna Foundation website [www.fusernafoundation.org/home.asp](http://www.fusernafoundation.org/home.asp), or phone 0207 409 3900.

## BIG Plans

The Big Lottery Fund has revealed its plans up to 2015 following the results of its biggest ever public consultation. The consultation, held from November 2008 to February 2009, saw 3,500 responses to an online survey.



BIG has published two follow up documents. "**Big Thinking – our Strategic Framework to 2015**" and "**What You Told Us**" have been released simultaneously to allow readers to see how the responses to the consultation informed the new strategy.

"**Big Thinking**" outlines the principles which will inform BIG's approach to funding in the UK for the next six years. It is based around three crucial UK-wide themes – community learning and creating opportunity, promoting community cohesion and safety, and promoting well-being. Future funding programmes will be structured on the new framework and will aim to fulfil BIG's ambition to be an efficient and responsive funder.

"**What You Told Us**" is an analysis to the responses to the consultation both from online surveys and regional and national meetings. The document informs the Strategic Framework to 2015 and demonstrates the transparency of the consultation process.

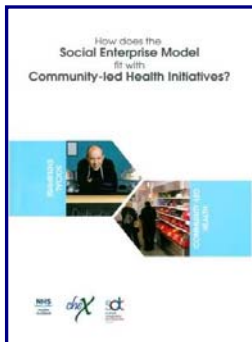
To view 'Big Thinking' click on [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/index/about-uk/bigthinking/strategic\\_framework\\_2015.htm](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/index/about-uk/bigthinking/strategic_framework_2015.htm)

To view 'What You Told Us' click on [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/wytu\\_consultation\\_findings.pdf](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/wytu_consultation_findings.pdf)

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## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

### CHEX Report on Social Enterprise and Community-led Health



Social enterprise is now well established as a means by which community and voluntary organisations may become more sustainable while continuing to develop and meet their social purpose. The model has gradually been adopted across different Sectors.

As grant aided funding to the community-led health sector has diminished, organisations are testing out the feasibility of trading services, whilst retaining their commitment to community development and needs-led services.

**Community Health Exchange (CHEX)** has recently commissioned research into the question: ***“How does the social enterprise model fit with community development approaches to health?”*** The research draws on the experience of a number of mature social enterprises across Scotland.

These organisations emphasise that needs-led and market-led approaches do involve different motivators and drivers, and robust business plans must be produced to balance these tensions.

Key findings from the research have been brought together in the report which can be downloaded from

[www.chex.org.uk/uploads/social\\_enterprise\\_model\\_and\\_chis\\_report\\_aug\\_2009.pdf?sess\\_sc\\_dc=896220a92bd3656e5d857a0a40b51039](http://www.chex.org.uk/uploads/social_enterprise_model_and_chis_report_aug_2009.pdf?sess_sc_dc=896220a92bd3656e5d857a0a40b51039) . For additional information on the research please email Janet Muir at [Janet@scdc.org.uk](mailto:Janet@scdc.org.uk).

### Awards for Scottish Social Entrepreneurs

Firstport, the support organisation working to identify and seed social enterprises in Scotland, distributes money on behalf of the Scottish Government's £1 million **Social Entrepreneurs Fund** and **Scotland UnLtd's Millennium Awards Trust**. In the latest round of awards a total of £56,367 has been awarded through both funds to 14 individuals. These are just some examples from across the country:

- £4,726 to “iGiveADamn”, a communications service that lets charities instantly and easily have up to date applications (apps) on the main social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter) as well as on mobile phones and on desktop/TV widgets.
- £4,500 to “Little Green Map”, a free foldable map aimed at Edinburgh's 13 million annual tourists. The map seeks to ensure that while in the city tourists know where to find Edinburgh's many eco-friendly, ethical and sustainable attractions, businesses.
- £4,251 to help launch “Suited and Booted”, an enterprise that will provide interview outfits free of charge to young people on low incomes in Ayrshire.
- £4,160 to launch “Evergreen Carpet Recycling”, a new carpet recycling social enterprise in Lanarkshire.
- £2,460 from Scotland UnLtd to help Alness Academy pupils turn their bike repair club into “Re Cycle”, a new social enterprise.

Firstport offers free support and advice to start up social entrepreneurs with funding from the Scottish Government in addition to providing start up awards through the Social Entrepreneur's Fund and the Millennium Awards Trust.

If *you* have a social enterprise that needs a kick start, contact Karen McGregor, Fund Manager, Firstport, on 07800 863 837.

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## GROUP NEWS

### CVS Stirling AGM

Over 30 voluntary group representatives and others attended last Wednesday's Annual General Meeting of CVS Stirling in the Mayfield Community Centre.

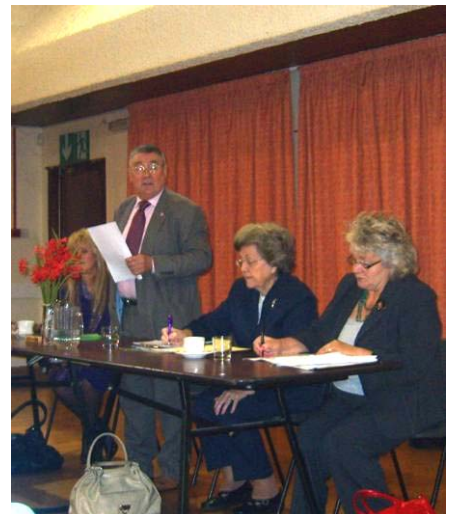
Welcoming everyone to the meeting, acting chair Terry Barlow spoke of how it had been an eventful and challenging year for the organisation. He made particular reference to the sudden death of Colin Newman in June. This left us all at a loss, he said, describing the former Chairman's contribution to CVS and the voluntary sector as "immense." The meeting observed a moment's silence in Colin's memory.

#### New faces on CVS Board:

- \* **Zahir Haider**, Stirling businessman and Director of Computer Division, is also involved with the disaster relief charity Stirling Aid.
- \* **Dianne Jackson's** long involvement with volunteering includes Homestart and the Council on Disability.

The business that followed saw the current board of directors re-elected, with Terry Barlow confirmed as the new Chair. The board was further strengthened by the addition of two new members: Zahir Haider and Dianne Jackson.

Once business was concluded the Guest Speaker, Anne McGuire MP, took the floor. She spoke first about her own involvement with the voluntary sector, both before and after entering parliament, and went on to look at the historical context of voluntary and charitable organisations, their evolving role in service provision to the community, and the changing relationship between the voluntary sector and government, both local and national.



**Chairperson Terry Barlow introduces the Guest Speaker, Anne McGuire MP.**



The sector had travelled a long way as a service, often in the face persistent misconceptions - such as that working in the sector was not 'a real job'. There was a new appreciation of the strengths of the sector - its personal commitment, flexibility, and emphasis on meeting the needs of the individual. Government approaches to services had learned from, and been shaped by, voluntary sector practices.

The voluntary sector now stood at a crossroads in its relationship with local government as the new single interface and new funding arrangements came into force. Inevitably, tensions would arise, but the key to successful outcomes lay in achieving balance. Local authorities must respect the independence of voluntary groups, even when it did not suit them, and this included their right to challenge decisions and policies.

Everyone, she said, must understand the new aspirations people had these days: a 'one size fits all' approach was no longer acceptable. People demanded recognition, not just as passive recipients of care, but as individuals who could also make a contribution.

In conclusion, Anne McGuire again stressed the importance of a robust, independent voluntary sector, the glue that holds local communities together. This theme was continued through the question-and-answer session that followed, when delegates reiterated the huge contribution voluntary organisations make to the running of society and to the economy.

As Terry Barlow put it, *"Just imagine if the entire voluntary sector went on strike tomorrow ... Chaos!"*



***A fuller account of Anne McGuire's speech will soon be available to view on the CVS Stirling website, as will the Minutes of the 2009 AGM.***

## **CAB is a Sprightly Septuagenarian**

Staff and volunteers at Stirling's Citizens Advice Bureau celebrated the 70th anniversary of the UK service on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September. The CAB was founded on that date in 1939, just as war broke out.

As an indication of just how important this organisation is to our society, research commissioned for the anniversary shows that 20 per cent of the population in Scotland have contacted a CAB in the last three years. It found that 98 per cent felt that the service was

trustworthy, 97 per cent agreed that it helped people to get fair treatment and 93 per cent were satisfied with the service they received.

**The Stirling Bureau dealt with over 10,000 enquiries during the year, achieving 95 per cent accuracy.**

Manager Craig Anderson thanked everyone who had contributed to the success of the Stirling bureau, in particular the volunteers, who he described as “the heart of our service.” *“They are the ones who have kept this vital service going and who have inspired such extraordinary approval levels from the public,”* he said.

***Stirling CAB is holding its AGM and mini-conference (“Life after Debt”) on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> October in the Council Chambers, Old Viewforth, Stirling. All eBulletin readers should by now have received an invitation – if you haven’t, or need more information, please contact Stirling CAB on 01786 470239, email [SessionSupervisor@StirlingCAB.casonline.org.uk](mailto:SessionSupervisor@StirlingCAB.casonline.org.uk)***

## Good Home Wanted for Office Equipment

The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign in Scotland will soon be closing its Bonnybridge office and so has some equipment that is free to a good home

These items are FREE to any other voluntary organisation - all MDC asks is that they are able to collect them.

- ⇒ Desk
- ⇒ Computer Chair
- ⇒ 2 x filing cabinets
- ⇒ 3 x cupboards
- ⇒ 1 x Shelving Unit
- ⇒ 2 x Set of cardboard tidy tray
- ⇒ 1 x Set of metal desk tidy tray

If interested, please contact Gary Kernahan, Volunteer Fundraising Manager – Scotland, Muscular Dystrophy Campaign, PO Box 16294, Glasgow G13 9BY, email [g.kernahan@muscular-dystrophy.org](mailto:g.kernahan@muscular-dystrophy.org) 07801 047973 (Mobile), phone 020 7803 4800.

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## **VOLUNTEERING & EMPLOYMENT**

### **Wanted: SAIF Members**

The **Scottish Accessible Information Forum (SAIF)**, the advisory group promoting accessible information provision for disabled people and their carers throughout Scotland, is looking for new members.

Because they deal with issues affecting disabled people and their carers, it is a priority with SAIF that the majority of its members have direct experience of disability. The participation of disabled people is therefore strongly encouraged. To support this, all SAIF material is provided in members' preferred format, and aids/adaptations for meetings are organised as required. Members' travel and accommodation is paid for where necessary.

To download an application form, visit [www.saifscotland.org.uk/](http://www.saifscotland.org.uk/) or email your contact details to. Tell us which format you would prefer.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

## Deputy PPF Representative

NHS Forth Valley's Stirling Public Partnership Forum is seeking someone to fill the currently vacant post of **Deputy PPF Representative**. The election to this post will be on the agenda at the next PPF meeting next Wednesday (30<sup>th</sup> September) – see above, *Forthcoming Events*.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Jessie-Anne Malcolm: phone 01324 614660 or e-mail [jessie.malcolm@fvpc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:jessie.malcolm@fvpc.scot.nhs.uk)

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## OTHER NEWS

### Third Sector CHP Network

A fully functioning support network for Third Sector members of Community Health Partnerships is moving a step closer with the production of a draft constitution and development plan which aims to launch the network and give it the momentum to continue and grow.

Once the steering group has signed off the constitution and plan they will be sent out to all third sector members of CHPs for comments, suggestions and feedback.

If you would like to know more about the network please contact Bill Weir at [bill.weir@vhscotland.org.uk](mailto:bill.weir@vhscotland.org.uk)

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