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Thanks to everyone who took part in yesterday's Christmas Charities Event – we hope you found it worthwhile. We'll carry a full report in the next issue.

Lots of other events coming up in the first half of December, so see what you can fit in before the Festive Season dominates the agenda.

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

Premiere of Hard-hitting Drama of Adolescence

Balfron Campus, Balfron
Friday, 2nd December, 7 pm
Tickets £5. For ages 15+

Tuxedos and evening gowns ... popping champagne corks ... the glitz and glamour of a first night screening - it must be ... *Balfron?*

That's right. Not Hollywood, Balfron. Because Balfron Campus is the venue for the world premiere of **'When I Grow Up'**, a B. Begg Media film by 17-year old director Michael Ferns.

The 30-minute film is described as *"a hard-hitting drama tackling the pressures faced by young people today. Written in the language of young people, it is not afraid to shock or depict disturbing scenes relating to issues relevant to today's youth - bullying, peer pressures, parental expectations, self harm, the danger of carrying knives, and obsession. The result is a powerful, lively and thought-provoking work that will appeal not only to young people, but to parents and teachers too – in fact, anyone who anyone who remembers that awful, exhilarating period: adolescence."*

Thanks to an application by **Third Age Group (TAG) Strathendrick**, the Co-op membership is providing the funding for a Laser light show.

The film is 15+ rated, and tickets are available from joanmaco@aol.com

Meeting on Deafblindness

Lenzie Union Parish Church Hall, 65 Kirkintilloch Road, Lenzie
4th December, 10.30 am – c. 3 pm

The **Scottish Advisory Group on Deafblindness** is a group made up entirely of deafblind people, and is a forum to discuss issues that affect them.



SAGOD hold meetings four times a year throughout Scotland to promote awareness about deafblindness, inviting local councillors, social workers and others involved in this field. It is a unique opportunity to meet deafblind people, and fascinating insight into the needs and capabilities of deafblind people.

You are welcome to come along, even for a short visit, and offer your support.

You can find out about the charity Deafblind Scotland and the work they do on their website, www.deafblindscotland.org.uk

The Third Sector and Public Policy in Scotland

A SCVO / ESRC Collaborative Seminar

Augustine Church Centre, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh
5th December, 10 am - 4 pm
FREE (includes lunch and refreshments)

This, the first in a series of three seminars on this topic, will look at **co-planning** and **co-production**. These are economic terms for the mechanism by which users, neighbourhoods and communities are involved in designing and delivering their own public services, in many cases through Third Sector organisations.

Following the shift towards outcome-based delivery (Single Outcome Agreements), the growth of formal Community Planning Partnerships and a renewed 'localism' in Scottish politics, co-planning and co-production have become increasingly important in making decisions about the delivery of local priorities. The Scottish Government is promoting an outcome-based approach involving co-planning of outcomes with community partners - including the third sector.

The seminar will explore the following questions:

- What is the difference, if any, between co-planning and delivery of services by the third sector on behalf of local authorities?
- Are both the public and third sectors properly equipped to co-plan services successfully? If not what do they require to become so?

- Are community development and community capacity building initiatives working, and how could they be improved?
- Are all the partners within Community Planning Partnerships collaborating in parity? If not, is this a significant issue and how might it be addressed?
- How much co-planning is currently going forward through other structures (e.g. community health partnerships, community council structures) and how much through other, direct forms of community empowerment? What are the pros and cons of these approaches?

Places are limited. To book a free place, please contact Marzena Bien in the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)'s Knowledge Transfer team on 01793 413137.

www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/about/CI/events/esrcseminar/third_sector_scotland.aspx?ComponentId=28872&SourcePageId=6066



Our World, Our Rights

Renfield St Stephen's Church Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow
 Saturday 6th December, 10am - 4pm
 FREE

This public conference organised by Amnesty International will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and discuss what it means for people in Scotland and around the world. Workshops sessions (and their presenters) include:

- **Children's rights** (Barnardos)
- **Workers' rights** (STUC)
- **War on Terror** (Niall McCluskey, Advocate)
- **LGBT rights** (Equality Network and LGBT Youth Scotland)
- **Climate change and poverty** (Oxfam)
- **Older people's rights** (Help the Aged)
- **Women's rights** (Scottish Women's Aid)
- **Refugees and Asylum Seekers** (Scottish Refugee Council)
- **Rights to Health, Housing and Happiness** (Amnesty International)

The event is free and open to all, however, spaces are limited. You can reserve yours (and help us to plan) at <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/scotland> or by calling 0131 313 7012.

To find out more about the conference (eg speakers), visit Amnesty's website, www.amnesty.org.uk/events To book online, go to www.amnesty.org.uk/form.asp?FormID=107&CategoryID=11410

Accessing Health Care Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Forth Valley Sensory Centre

Wednesday, 10th December, 4 - 7 pm

NHS Forth Valley Disability Service are holding an **open forum event** for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People on the subject of accessing health care. This event is aimed primarily at the general public, though staff members with an interest are welcome to come along. Main topics to be featured are

- Flu Vaccination
- Health and Wellbeing over the Festive Period
- Interpretation and Translation Provision
- NHS 24
- Maternity Services
- Stress Awareness, Relaxation

For details, contact Caroline Nisbet, Disability Equality Advisor, NHS Forth Valley Disability Service on 01324 590886, email caroline.nisbet@nhs.net

Annual Christmas Concert

Albert Halls, Dumbarton Road, Stirling

Sunday, 14th December, 5 pm

Tickets £9 (concession: £7)



Did you know that one in nine Scottish children run away from home before the age of sixteen, and that half of them are running from neglect or abuse? Each year, 9,000 Scottish children run away from home.

Aberlour, which has Scotland's only refuge for young runaways, is currently running a **Scotland's Runaway Children Campaign**, and it's this that will be the beneficiary of their Annual Christmas Concert. The programme will feature:



- *The Clackmannan District Brass Band,*

The Alva Academy Soloists and Musicians -





- and *The Stirling Academy of Dance*.

Tickets £9 (Concession - £7) available from the Albert Hall Box Office, Tel: 01786 473 544 or from Aberlour Child Care Trust, Tel: 01786 230 496.

Find out more about Aberlour and the work they do at www.aberlour.org.uk

Living Well with Epilepsy

A service for people living with epilepsy in Central Scotland

Stirling Carers Centre, Barnton Street, Stirling

21st January – 25th February 2009,

Wednesdays, 11.00 am – 1.00 pm



A reminder about the six week project run by **Epilepsy Connections** to help people with epilepsy and their families improve their knowledge of epilepsy-related issues and share and learn from each others' experiences.

The course will cover a range of topics including myths and facts about epilepsy, coping with stress, living with long-term medication, epilepsy and memory, and include presentations by guest speakers.

If you have epilepsy, or if you live with or care for someone who has epilepsy, this is your chance to find out more. Contact Gill Wilson, Living Well with Epilepsy Project Trainer, on 01324 692030 or email gwilson@epilepsyconnections.org.uk (Tues & Weds 9.30am – 4.30pm only), or call 0141 248 4125, email info@epilepsyconnections.org.uk

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SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Tendering for Public Contracts

A short overview of how to sell to the public sector

The Scottish Government, in conjunction with the Public Procurement Reform programme, has published a comprehensive update guide to Tendering for Public Contracts. This is available to download at

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/10/27105954/0 Free hard copies are also available; please e-mail Agnieszka.Maj@scotland.gsi.gov.uk with the quantities you'd like and a delivery address.

Social Entrepreneurship in the UK – a survey

Following five years of research, Delta Economics, has produced this important Report into Social Enterprises in the UK. The Report seeks to define and explain **social entrepreneurship** and its role, presents statistics on social entrepreneurship in the UK, and includes a range of case studies.

Among its findings are:

- ⇒ 5.8% of the working age UK population are in the early stages of social entrepreneurship – around 2 million people
- ⇒ 35% of all new entrepreneurs (involved with start-up activity for up to three months) are social entrepreneurs.
- ⇒ Recreation, Education and Support and Care Services are the dominant areas for new start-ups.
- ⇒ Social entrepreneurs have very positive attitudes – moiré so than the population as a whole – however, they lack confidence compared to their mainstream counterparts.
- ⇒ Over half of social start-ups expect to attain charitable status.
- ⇒ Only 34% of social start-ups get more than half of their funding from public sources. 43% have a commercial revenue stream.

The full Report can be downloaded from

www.rcvsweb.co.uk/uploaded/documents/public/delta_economics_social_entrepreneurship_in_the_uk_full_report.pdf

“Acquiring Business for Good”

Social Firms Scotland AGM
Edinburgh, 9th December



Social Firms Scotland is launching a new initiative – “**Acquiring Business for Good**” - at their AGM next month. This pioneering programme will offer an alternative route to developing new Social Firms by acquiring existing businesses.

The aim of the project, which will run over the next 3 and a half years, is to support more people who are currently excluded from the labour market into employment, by acquiring businesses and converting them to Social Firms.

Jim Mather MSP, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism, will formally launch the project. For details, contact Jayne Chappell, email jayne.chappell@socialfirms.org.uk

SEA *Winter School*

Barony Castle, Eddleston (near Peebles)
Tuesday 20th - Friday 23rd January, 2009
FREE



Following the success of its **20:Twenty: Journey to Succeed** summer school last year, the Social Enterprise Academy (SEA) will be repeating the 4 day residential programme –*next January*.

Up to 25 of Scotland's future chief executives and senior leaders in social enterprise will come together to share the challenges of succession planning – as individuals and as part of a vibrant movement, doing business for good. With a varied programme including top level speakers, a practical leadership challenge, action learning sets and coaching opportunities, participants will have to opportunity to reflect on future development, for themselves and organisations.

Who is it for?

This residential is aimed at those working in a leadership or management role within the social enterprise or third sector; especially those who aim to be in a top job in a few years time. If you are a chief executive or senior manager and you have spotted people within your organisation who have the potential to take on the most senior roles in your own or even another organisation, please encourage them to apply.

With the support of the Scottish Government, the programme is fully funded and there is **no fee** for taking part. **Competition for places is high**, so please complete the application form carefully for the best chance to win a place on the programme.

Application forms can be requested via email: learn@theacademy-ssea.org or telephone: 0131 243 2670, or download from the Academy's website: www.theacademy-ssea.org
Closing date for applications is 12 December, with shortlisting the week after.

Check out the programme flyer at www.senscot.net/docs/thistletemplate.pdf

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POLICY & PLANNING

Hospitals Transport & Car Parking

On 18th November, a meeting of Stirling CHP's Public Partnership Forum was held to discuss the topic of Transport and Car Parking for the New Forth Valley Hospital in Larbert, and to have an update on Community Health Facilities in Stirling.

A presentation by Mark Craske, Travel Manager, NHS Forth Valley, developed the recommendations of the Transport Assessment Including the provision of four bus stances at the main hospital entrance, and a parking management strategy.

Public Transport / Parking Provision

Proposed measures include:

- A **shuttle bus** between the Hospital and Larbert Railway Station
- A **direct bus link** to Alloa town centre
- An **extension** to the existing Fankerton – Falkirk Royal service
- Possible **30 minute frequency** for services to Falkirk Bus Station, Stirling Bus Station, Kilsyth & Glasgow.

As you may know, car parking will be FREE. An estimated 1,500 spaces will be required, and a Car Park Policy Development Group will address how these will be managed. The eBulletin will report on developments.

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FUNDING

'Big Thinking'

This month saw the launch of **Big Thinking**, the consultation on the Big Lottery Fund's strategic framework for 2009 – 2015.



Big Thinking is about looking back on what has been achieved, and looking forward to what can be done better between 2009 and 2015. It is about celebrating success and learning from the accumulated experience of more than 10 years of Lottery funding.

This is your opportunity to tell BIG what *you* think and influence decisions as to where Lottery money can make the biggest impact.

Visit the website at www.big-thinking.org.uk and click on 'Consultation Survey' to register and give your views.

Marathon Dent in Lottery Funding

Lottery cash diverted to funding the London Olympics in may have severe implications for Scottish charities. The Big Lottery Fund (BLF) Scotland – the country's biggest lottery distributor - will be reducing the amount available **by 70 percent** next year. The total pot available for Scotland will be under £25m. Check out the full story on the SCVO website: www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/TFNPR/ViewTFNPR.aspx?pr=8191&from=Home&al=t

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GROUPS IN FOCUS: Stirling & District Association for Mental Health



Stirling & District Association for Mental Health (SDAMH) began some 23 years ago, when the retraction of psychiatric hospital-based services began, and there was a realisation that there were very few care and support provisions in the community for people experiencing or recovering from mental ill health, or support for their carers and families.



The SDAMH premises in Stirling's Riverside were extended last autumn, thanks to funding from the Big Lottery, NHS Forth Valley, The Robertson Trust, Awards for All and the Tudor Trust.

Improvements include more activity space and better disability access.

SDAMH is a local charity for people aged 12 years upwards living in the Stirling Council area. All of the Services provided are person-centred, that is to say, focusing on the **person** rather than the illness and medication.

The aims of the organisation are fourfold. First, to increase social awareness and understanding of mental health in the community at large. Too often misunderstanding, stigma and inequality characterise the public response to mental health issues.

Secondly, improving the quality of life for clients and carers. This is done by helping them access appropriate services and projects, and helping them to manage their lives in the community and enjoy equal value from all other available services.

The third strand is to ensure, through client participation, these services and projects are always relevant to clients' needs.

And finally, SDAMH assists in the development of innovative services and projects, alternatives to those services provided by Health and Social Services agencies in the statutory sector.

To meet these aims, SDAMH operates a wide range of services. Here's a summary:

Adult Befriending – One to one befriending, provided by trained volunteers, for a minimum of 2 hours per week, within the client's local community. (18 – 65 years)

Ageing Well - Provides a community based service for older people living in the Stirling Council area, experiencing or recovering from mental ill health. (60+ years)

Approaches to Choosing Life Awareness

Raising / Events – SDAMH is continually involved in events such as Scottish Mental Health Awareness Week (October) and a range of mental health promotional/awareness raising events, with a wide range of agencies and people.

Counselling – One to one counselling, with a person-centred approach, for 12 x 1 hour sessions, to learn skills to address issues in the client's life. (18 – 65 years)

Drop-in & Groups – Is open 6 days a week, providing a safe and supportive environment for clients to 'drop-in' and perhaps take part in a wide range of groups & activities. (18 – 65 years)

Home Support – Practical, emotional and social support for people trying to 'avoid' admission to hospital and for those coming out of hospital, trying to re-integrate into their local community. (18 + years)

In Touch Information & SDAMH Website – A database and website of services and facilities in Forth Valley area. The information is also made available through 'Information Sessions' in public venues throughout Stirling District. The Service also looks after the SDAMH's website- www.stirlingmentalhealth.org.uk and the quarterly newsletter, "Riverside Review".

SDAMH Services in brief:

- ⇒ *Adult Befriending*
- ⇒ *'Ageing Well'*
- ⇒ *Awareness Raising / Events*
- ⇒ *Counselling*
- ⇒ *Drop-in & Groups*
- ⇒ *Home Support*
- ⇒ *'InTouch' Information & Website*

**CONTACT SDAMH: Address: 19 Dean Crescent, Riverside, Stirling FK8 1UR
Tel: 01786 451203 Email: info@stirlingmentalhealth.org.uk**

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