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An important date for this month's diary: **Friday 29th May**. This is when we are holding the **Third Sector**

Event: Stronger Together. As the name suggests, this is all about cohesiveness within the Sector, and working collectively to achieve effective representation and influence.

Another event well worth attending is next Wednesday's public event in the Tolbooth, part of the '**National Conversation**' on our country's future. Any conversation is only as good as the people involved in it, so come along and put forward your point of view. In particular, this is an opportunity to speak out in the interests of your group, and of the Sector as a whole

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

Heart-to-Heart Support Course

Central Stirling venue,
Wednesdays, 13th May – 17th June, 7 – 9 pm



Heart to Heart, the charity that offers confidential support to **men** and **women** who have been affected by divorce or separation, is running a 6-week support course.

For more information, phone 01877 33 99 66, or E-mail: info@hearttoheart.org.uk

Choosing Scotland's Future: Have Your Say

Tolbooth, Jail Wynd, Stirling
Wednesday, 13th May, 6.30 – 8 pm

With the publication of *Choosing Scotland's Future* on 14th August 2007, the Scottish Government began a **National Conversation** on Scotland's constitutional future. Politicians, academics, civic institutions and the public across Scotland are now engaged in a debate about the responsibilities the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government will require to enable Scotland to fulfil its potential.

The Government has stated its commitment that the National Conversation should be an open, inclusive process, where everyone who has an interest in Scotland's future has the opportunity to engage in the debate.

It's now *your* turn to join in the National Conversation and have your say on Scotland's constitutional future. Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning and Bruce Crawford, Minister for Parliamentary Business would like to hear your views.

Please indicate whether you can or cannot attend this event by emailing nationalconversation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk . It would be helpful to know if you have any special dietary requirements and if you require wheelchair or assisted access.

(You should note that this event may be recorded and video and audio coverage may appear on the Scottish Government website www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/a-national-conversation or on broadcast media.)

Funding Surgery

Raploch Community Campus, Drip Road, Stirling
20th May

Charities in the Stirling area are invited to discuss their funding needs at a surgery organised by Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland.



Lloyds TSB
Foundation for Scotland

45-minute appointments for a one-to-one consultation with an Assessor are available **between 11am and 6.30pm** and should be booked in advance.

The consultation is an opportunity for representatives of registered charities to discuss potential projects towards which the Foundation may be able to provide financial support. Foundation representatives will be able to give you tips on filling in the application form and advice on the kind of projects that we fund.

Mary Craig, the Foundation's Chief Executive, said, *"Our aim is to make the application process as straightforward as possible, and to offer as much help as we can. These local consultations are a great way for charities to get advice and discuss their projects face to face before applying. We'd encourage as many charities as possible to call us and make an appointment."*

To arrange an appointment, phone 0870 902 1201. Disabled access is available at this venue - please mention if this is required.

Walking Alongside: *A values-based approach to supporting people*

Reunion Barge, Union Canal, Fountainbridge, Edinburgh Quay
26th May, 9.30 am – 4 pm
£90 per person



This is the first of two training courses developed by **Forth Sector** and **Health in Mind** for Third Sector organisations aimed at strengthening the relationship between staff and service users. These courses are designed to allow your organisation to offer a more supportive environment; one which gives staff the confidence to help service users articulate and realise their goals.

Help develop and maintain positive relationships with your service users by

- Increasing your confidence when working with users who are socially excluded
- Developing more effective work methods
- Achieving greater success helping service users to achieve their full potential
- Re-energising your relationships and gain greater job satisfaction

Values Based Supervision

10th June, 9.30 am – 4 pm
(venue, prices as above)

The second training course aims to increase the effectiveness of supervision for you and your supervisee by

- Learning to use reflection as a tool for supervision.
- Using supervision as a supportive space for exploring values.
- Exploring your own support needs in relation to working with socially excluded service users.

To book either course, call 0131 225 8508 or email sd@health-in-mind.org.uk

Third Sector Event: '*Stronger Together*'

Mayfield Centre, Sunnybank Road, St Ninians, Stirling
29th May, 10 am – 1 pm (registration, 9.30)
FREE (Buffet lunch included)

Representatives from all Third Sector (i.e. voluntary, charitable, social enterprise) organisations in the Stirling area are invited to this important event. Come together and explore the best ways to achieve effective participation in the decision making processes that affect you.



Fliers about the event have gone out to our members – if you haven't received one, please get in touch with us!

ESOL Discussion Day

Stirling Management Centre, Stirling University Campus
29th May, 10 am - 3.15pm (registration at 9.30am)

ESOL stands for '**English for Speakers of Other Languages**', and this event brings together work that has been carried out over the previous year by three working parties convened by the Scottish Government and the National ESOL Panel for Scotland, (which includes Learning Link Scotland).

Their work over the last year, and their recommendations, will be presented at the Discussion Day. Facilitated discussion groups will allow participants to give their views, opinions and ideas on the proposed Curriculum Framework for ESOL, Professional Development for practitioners and Funding Principles for ESOL.

To find out more about the work of ESOL, visit www.esolscotland.com/index.cfm

And if you are interested in attending this discussion day, you can find an online booking form at www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=iHoCq28JfcoJ4PGZWfCjSg_3d_3d Closing date for registering is 15 May 2009, but please register as soon as possible.

Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme – Information Events

The Protecting Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 introduces a new membership scheme for people who work with children and protected adults. This will replace current disclosure arrangements for people whose post requires an enhanced disclosure. The Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG Scheme) is expected to be introduced in 2010 (an exact date is still to be determined). This means that the way you interact with Disclosure Scotland will change.

In June 2009, the Scottish Government will host a series of six free information events that aim to bring organisations up to speed with implementation activities and provide an opportunity to consider and discuss aspects of the PVG Scheme.

- Tuesday, 2nd June: Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh
- Wed 10th June: Hilton Glasgow, 1 William Street, Glasgow
- Thurs 25th June: Perth Concert Hall, Mill Street, Perth
(Others will be held in Aberdeen, Dundee and Inverness.)

The information events will include:

- An update on PVG Scheme implementation activities and next steps.
- Discussion on the scope of regulated work in the children's and protect adults' sector.
- An update on how the referrals and considerations process will be structured and managed.
- An insight into how the PVG Scheme guidance will be structured and presented.

- Round table discussions to enable delegates to feed back views on the proposed scope of regulated work and the structure of the guidance.

The events will run from 9.30am until 1.30pm and lunch will be provided. Presentations will be delivered by members of the PVG Scheme Implementation Team in the Scottish Government.

Please note that the Central Registered Body in Scotland (CRBS) will host similar events around Scotland for voluntary groups and small organisations later in the year. For more information, please contact the CRBS on 01786 849777 or visit <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

- For more information about the PVG Scheme please visit <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvglegislation>
- For more information about Disclosure Scotland visit www.disclosurescotland.co.

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Information Event for Minority/Ethnic Older People

Information Event
Black & Ethnic Minority Communities
Stirling

- **Benefits and Support Services for Older People**
- **Information on Housing Options**
- **A Discussion on "The Needs of Older People"**
- **Information on "Happy To Translate"** 

Saturday 13 June 2009
 11 am to 4 pm
Mayfield Community Centre
Sunnybank Road, St Ninians
Stirling, FK7 ODB

❖ **Food/refreshments/crèche provided** 

❖ **Limited transport available on request if booked before 5th June 09** 

For transport booking & more information, please contact:
 Neeru Bhatnagar 0131 444 4952
 Anthony Li Chu 0131 444 4941
 Rasa Luzyte 01324 610950

Organised by:

Central Scotland Racial Equality Council



Older People Services Development Project

LOTTERY FUNDED





- *Crèche and free lunch (Chinese and Indian food) provided, as well as entertainment during lunch.*
- *Some exhibitors will have stalls (Housing Associations, Community Services, etc).*
- *A focus group with minority ethnic older people will discuss barriers they face when accessing benefits and housing.*
- *Visitors will be welcomed between 11am – 11.30am with coffee and tea, and the event is planned to start at 11.30am sharp.*

PAVE (Patient, Advice, Volunteer, Education) the Way

Volunteer Open Day

Sensory Centre, Camelon, Falkirk

Friday 5th June, 2 - 5pm

A key driver of equality and diversity is **Fair for All –The Wider Challenge**, the name given to the overall approach to promoting equality and diversity. NHS Forth Valley (NHSVF) will think about how we meet the diverse needs of our local communities as supported within the Scottish Government document “Better Health, Better Care.” NHSFV will “PAVE the Way.”

The PAVE service would be:

- ⇒ an equitable service, delivered within NHSFV's new General Hospital at Larbert.
- ⇒ proactive and responsive to individual patient needs.
- ⇒ centrally coordinated, led by the NHSFV Disability Service
- ⇒ based within the new General Hospital facility, thus allowing for visibility, easy access and support in the delivery of clearer pathways, including signposting for those accessing health services and staff.

The 5th June event aims to recruit volunteers for this recently funded PAVE project. Accredited specialist training will be on offer - also coffee and biscuits!

If you would like to come along, or want to know more about PAVE, contact Jessie-Anne Malcolm, Public Partnership Forum Development Coordinator, Falkirk Royal Infirmary HQ, Westburn Avenue Falkirk FK1 5SU, Tel 01324 614660 or 0845 130 3714, email jessie.malcolm@fvpc.scot.nhs.uk

TRAINING & RESOURCES

Helpline for Tough Times

Are you worried about your charity's sustainability? In these tough economic times, many are struggling financially and are understandably concerned about their future viability. The **Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)** has set up a confidential helpline for charity leaders seriously worried about their financial situation.

Call the **freephone** Financial Crisis Helpline on **0800 980 2000** to request a one-off confidential discussion with one of our experienced managers who will talk through your concerns and suggest possible steps you could take.

Fundraising Ideas On Tap

NTT Fundraising has launched a new service to help charities across the country develop their fundraising strategies. You will receive regular innovative fundraising ideas free of charge and each one focuses on a different type of campaign.

To register for this new FREE service visit the NTT website www.nttfundraising.co.uk/our-services.aspx

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SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

International Conference: Social Capital & Community Resilience

New Lanark Heritage Centre, New Lanark

4th June



Social Capital, defined as *the value and cooperation created through social human relationships or networks*, has been shown to extend collective well-being in a variety of ways. The quantity and quality of social capital in a community plays a crucial role in the ability of community members to solve their problems, act for the future and participate in decision making.

Community Resilience is gaining ground as an internationally recognised element in the wellbeing of communities. It has been defined as *“the capability of individuals, families, groups, and communities to cope successfully in the face of significant adversity and risk.”*

“This capability changes over time, is enhanced by protective factors in the individual system and the environment and contributes to the maintenance and enhancement of health.”

Assist Social Capital wishes to focus on practical examples of the connection between community resilience and social capital in the success of a community's efforts to cope with adversity and enhance collective wellbeing.

The conference at the historic site of New Lanark Heritage Centre will gather a number of keynote speakers and present a series of case studies on the theme of community resilience and the role of social capital.

Details of costs and online bookings at www.social-capital.net/conference09.php

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FUNDING

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Guidance Notes

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation has updated its **Main Fund Guidance Notes** with the aim of giving clearer advice about their funding.



They can be found at www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/funding/main-fund.html They have also added information to their website about the kind of work they will fund. **You can now apply online to the Main Fund.**

Alongside the Main Fund they continue to run specialist Strands - for more information on these and how to apply see www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/funding/funding-strands.html

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OTHER NEWS

New Rural Network Website

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment Richard Lochhead visited the Alness Heritage Centre to launch the new **Scotland National Rural Network** website. The Scotland National Rural Network website aims to connect rural Scotland in all its diversity to promote economic growth and community development.

This replaces the **Rural Gateway** website, though until 11th May 2009 you can still access the Rural Gateway archive at <http://archived.ruralgateway.org.uk/index.html>

Run by SCVO's Rural Team, the site keeps you up to date with the latest rural development news, lets you share good practice and find information on rural funding opportunities. For more info visit www.ruralgateway.org.uk/en

Sector's Budget Disappointment

Charity leaders have hit out at the Treasury for failing to commit to changes to the Gift Aid scheme that could give an extra £700 million to voluntary bodies across the UK.

Chancellor Alistair Darling made no mention of charities in his Budget speech, while his report commits only to carrying out research into possible future reform of the Gift Aid system.

Donors need to sign up to using Gift Aid, which is essentially tax relief on money given to UK charities. Ruchir Shah, head of policy and research at the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), said: *"We are disappointed ... we had fully expected that the government would announce far-reaching reforms as part of the Budget.*

"In particular, we have been calling for the UK government to commit to a permanent extension, to promote the wider take-up of Gift Aid, and to look at the possibilities of an opt-out, rather than an opt-in basis for the system.

"It is estimated that this could generate an additional £700 million in revenue for charities, which could make a real difference to a sector that is facing serious financial difficulties on all fronts."

Family Support Charities Merge



One way for charities to cope with the recession could be to join forces, especially where there interests and areas of operations overlap, or even coincide. Two of Scotland's family

support charities have done just that.

Scottish Marriage Care has provided relationship counselling for 40 years from a national office in Glasgow and 21 centres across Scotland. Its c.150 trained volunteers offer counselling to anyone directly affected by family breakdown, including children through a number of school-based projects.

However, the charity's youth work has come under threat due to funding cuts, prompting a merger with **Stepfamily Scotland**, which operates a helpline for stepfamilies.

Marion Laird, Scottish Marriage Care's head of service, said, *"It's very difficult to access funding – it's getting harder and harder. But our service is so important at this time, when financial difficulties can put such a strain on relationships."*

"Divorce is an expensive business, so we can save the economy a lot of money."

You can find more about the charities and the background to their merger at www.stepfamilyscotland.org.uk/ and www.scottishmarriagecare.org/

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Council for Voluntary Services - Thriving and Connecting Communities in Stirling

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