

CVS Stirling e-Bulletin –9th May 2008

There are lots of events and activities coming up in the next couple of weeks – see below. Some of them could even get you outside into this lovely Spring sunshine!

Thank you for your recent comments and suggestions for the e-Bulletin. Please keep them coming. Emails to: lee.stevenson@cvS-stirling.org.uk.



Deadline for contributions Friday's bulletin is the previous Monday. If you have any queries, please call 01786 469916 and ask for Lee or Donald.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MAY DAY – Stay Safe in Stirling

May 15th,

Thistle Marches Foyer (next to bus station)

9am – 6 pm. FREE

This Thursday sees the 5th of these events to raise public awareness of safety issues (including fire prevention, home security, personal safety, food safety etc. etc.).

You can browse the stalls at the 'May Day Market Place', talk to representatives, and peruse a range of printed materials. A May Day Quiz is also featured.

Many organisations are involved in running this event: Stirling & District Association for Mental Health, Victim Support, Central Scotland Police, Central Scotland Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre Open Secret, Stirling Council, NHS Forth Valley.

Girl Guiding Annual Event

Tuesday, 27th May, 7pm
Tolbooth, Broad Street, Stirling.

Featuring reports of two International Trips, and entertainment by Brownies and Rainbows from Falkirk, Bo'ness and Bonnybridge.

Awards for County Competitions will be presented by new President Anne Baxter and there will be a Powerpoint Presentation on what has been happening around the County in the past year. Visit www.ggfv.co.uk for more info.

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Supporting Witnesses in the Scottish Justice System

2 June 2008
Scottish Police College, Tulliallan Castle.

This conference is being hosted by the Victims and Witnesses Unit in partnership with other stakeholders, with the aim of raising awareness about support for victims and witnesses in the Scottish Justice system.

The conference will be of particular interest to those working for voluntary organisations supporting victims and witnesses, children's reporters, academics, and researchers, and staff of relevant government departments and justice agencies.

Key issues covered by seminars

- Access to justice to people with mental disorder
- Does the Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2004 work for justice?
- Child Witnesses – meeting the challenge
- Identifying vulnerable witnesses
- Using special measures in the courtroom

You can find out more or request to attend at
www.holyrood.com/supportingwitnesses.

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Refresh: Lunchtime Seminars

The Rock Centre, 1st Floor, 61/63 Murray Place, Stirling
1.00 for snacks and tea / coffee.
1.10 talk, followed by Q&A. Finish by 1.50

REFRESH Seminars are a voluntary service offered by The Rock Community Project for anyone working in Stirling. The programme aims to be a mix of interesting, intriguing, socially relevant and helpful to people's personal and professional lives. Speakers are generally eminent in their field, but with a Stirling connection which gives the seminars a local relevance. They give their

services free of charge. The charge for the seminar is to cover the cost of food only.

The lunchtime seminar programme is aimed at helping people to find answers to the issues and concerns that are important to them as they balance home and work demands.

Seminars will normally take place on the first Thursday of each month (except January, April, July and August). Next seminar -

DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

Thursday, 05 Jun 2008

Many decision situations involve conflict over the right course of action. Anne Pingnot, researcher in applied cognitive psychology, provides useful tools for making decisions in these situations and suggests some strategies for handling conflict when it arises.

Places are limited and numbers are required for catering, so please book in advance on 01786 462647, or email refresh@rockcommunityproject.org.uk

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Nurture Through Nature –

Crieff, 17 June

This conference will be the first in a series of events run over the next three years to explore the benefits to children of being and learning outdoors. We will draw on the experience of nature kindergartens in Norway and inspirational projects already happening in Scotland.

To learn more, and book, visit www.childreninScotland.org.uk/ntn

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“Out of the Blue” Exhibition at the Smith

Smith Art Gallery & Museum, Stirling

May 10-25

“Out of the Blue” is a display of visual and written work created by people with mental health problems.

The project has been a collaborative effort from a number of organisations across Forth Valley including the NHS, Artlink Central, Open Secret and Stirling and District Association for Mental Health.

NHS Forth Valley consultant psychiatrist Bobby Clafferty, who organised the venture, said, [“We hope that the exhibition will raise awareness of both mental health and show that people can and do recover or can live well even when they have the symptoms of mental health problems.”](#)

Award winning short story writer and poet Helen Lamb will be speaking and reading some of her work at the official opening of the exhibition on **May 16th**.

This is open to the public, and will include discussions about creative writing and mental health. One of the artists with mental health problems will also be speaking about how art has proved to be a very positive experience for her.

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In Brief

The following national events will be coming up towards the end of May. To find out more, phone or visit the website in question.

19 World Hepatitis Awareness Day

t: 020 7089 6220

www.hepctrust.org.uk

19–23 Walk to School Week

t: 020 7820 1010

www.walktoschool.org.uk

19–23 National Allergy Week

t: 01322 619 898

www.allergyuk.org

31 World No Tobacco Day

www.euro.who.int/tobaccofree

GROUP NEWS

Teeing off for Children's Charity

For the past 10 years, children's charity Barnardo's Scotland has appealed to lady golfers in Stirling and Clackmannanshire to hit the fairways to help boost its funds.

And again this year the charity has teamed up with the Scottish Ladies Golfing Association to organise a series of competitions by golf clubs in the area. These will run through the summer months, with top scorers going through to the final at Arbroath Golf Course on Friday, August 15.

Last year 53 Scottish golf clubs took part in the tournament, raising more than £2,000.

Interested golfers should contact their local club, the SLGA on 01738 442357, or Barnardo's events organiser Jenny Fergusson on 0131 314 6647, email

jenny.fergusson@barnardos.org.uk.

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Capability Scotland Scale New Heights

The Charity is looking for energetic people who might be interested in volunteering at the Ben Nevis Challenge on **Saturday 31st May**.

Teams of 6, led by a Wheelchair user, will scale the Ben in a race against the clock. It's a tough and challenging event - all teams have already attended a training weekend in the Lake District.

Capability Scotland are looking for **one person to accompany each team** throughout their challenge in a supervisory role, and as timekeeper. It will also be the volunteer's job to turn the team around if they are struggling or out of time, and to deal with any minor injuries or other issues. Other roles on the day include extra help with the descent, marshalling on the top of Ben Nevis to ensure no one takes the wrong route down, and also at other tricky areas on the route.

If you'd like to volunteer, please email your personal contact details to helen.macgregor@capability-scotland.org.uk Website: www.capability-scotland.org.uk

FUNDING & RESOURCES

Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards

Community and voluntary groups whose core work is supporting children's welfare or education, elderly people and people with disabilities have the opportunity to apply for grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 through the Tesco Charity's Community Awards.

The Tesco Charity Trust has been in existence since 1987 and aims to provide approximately £600,000 in grants each year.

Applications are considered in two rounds. Organisations supporting children's welfare and children's educational projects, including special needs schools need to apply by 31st January each year. Organisations supporting elderly people and people with disabilities need to apply by **30th June**.

To find out more, visit <http://digbig.com/4wrcjj>

Deadline: **Monday 30 June 2008 & 31 January 2009**

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Grants Available to Help Child Poverty

(Scotland-wide)

The CSV (Community Service Volunteers) Scotland has a number of small grants of between £50-£250 to give to community groups, youth groups and schools that want to get involved in 'Dare to Care: Make Time to Help End Child Poverty'.

'Dare to Care' is a campaign that aims to raise awareness of child poverty in Scotland and what can be done to tackle the issue through volunteering. CSV has small grants to support activities that either raise awareness about child poverty or do something practical about it. Activities can range from big days out and arts and craft projects, to growing a vegetable patch, organising a sports event or regenerating a communal play area.

If you already have an activity planned and are happy to brand it with their 'Dare to Care' resources then they would be delighted to support you with a grant, too. For more information about applying for a Dare to Care grant please contact Sarah Bromley on 0131 622 7766 or e-mail: sbromley@csv.org.uk

Deadline for applications: **30 June 2008**

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'Aspire to Enterprise'

Developing social enterprises in Lowland Scotland – including the voluntary sector – could benefit from business 'health checks' on offer from this new programme, funded by the Scottish Government.

The programme offers access to development support to organisations with the drive and potential to increase their trading and become more sustainable social enterprises.

Following the 'health check,' your organisation may qualify to benefit from a programme of support to further develop its trading capacity, including seminars designed to stimulate entrepreneurial activity for future development.

For more details, visit www.aspiretoenterprise.org.uk

LEGISLATION & POLICY

Community Empowerment

In a recent statement, Louisa Harvey of the Community Engagement Team reported on the progress being made with the Empowering Communities agenda.

Following a series of discussion events October to December last year, the Scottish Government and COSLA agreed to issue a joint commitment to ensuring that communities have a degree of control and influence over the things that matter to them. This high-level commitment is backed up by an action plan.

The broad outline of the plan, shaped by the feedback received from the dialogue events, will cover:

- Highlighting examples of community empowerment;
- Providing direct capacity building investment to community groups;

- Investing in an integrated programme to develop skills, learning and networking in relation to community empowerment and engagement;
- Developing support to help communities own assets;
- Investing in improved support for community capacity building;
- Working with Audit Scotland to agree how to assess progress on empowerment.

If you have any queries or if you would like a copy of the feedback document from the discussions held last year, email communityengagement@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS SCHEME - an update on the Consultation

The Scottish Government’s consultation on proposals to deliver a robust vetting and barring scheme – one that will keep people who might harm children or vulnerable adults out of relevant employment positions - ran from 1 Nov 2007 till 12 Feb 2008.

The consultation period featured a series of information events in Scottish cities (including Stirling) and supported a road show to rural areas hosted by the Central Registered Body in Scotland. The events and the road show attracted over 1000 people, representing a wide range of groups and organisations. Participants discussed and explored a range of issues and answered polling questions relating to the policy proposals for secondary legislation.

The results from the polling are to be considered along with the consultation responses as part of the overall analysis. This will enable Ministers to make policy decisions on key aspects of the PVG scheme to be developed through secondary legislation during 2008/2009.

A full report will be published later this year. A date for the vetting and barring scheme to go live is still to be determined and the Scottish Government say they will announce the date well in advance to allow stakeholders time to prepare -

WATCH THIS SPACE.

The questions and answers from all the information events are at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvglegislation>

For more information go to <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/pvglegislation>, or email enquiries to pvg.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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Voluntary Arts get “a kick in the teeth”

Voluntary Arts Scotland, the umbrella body for all the volunteer-run arts organisations in Scotland, has failed to win funding from the Scottish Arts

Council for the 2009-2011 period. And unless they can find another source of funds before April 2009 they may be forced to close.

Voluntary Arts Scotland provides advice and support for hundreds of local arts organisations. Fiona Campbell, executive officer, described the decision as "a [real kick in the teeth to the voluntary arts sector.](#)"

More about the work of the VAS can be found at www.voluntaryarts.org/

RECRUITMENT

Wanted - Volunteer Walk Leaders

Active Stirling, who have taken the lead role in developing the "Walk About Stirling" project, are seeking volunteer walk leaders to lead walks in the Callander and Aberfoyle area. They will not only lead the walks but also encourage those taking part. Local training is provided.

For more information about the project and volunteering contact Tricia Cumming on 01786 432323 or Scott Ashworth on 01389 722114.

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Rape Crisis Centre seeking volunteers

Central Scotland Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre is looking for female volunteers who can spare 3 hours a week.

The Centre provides a free, confidential support service for victims of rape, child sexual abuse or sexual assault. This ranges from practical advice on legal and medical issues, to emotional support for those who have lived through these sorts of trauma.

Volunteers are given thorough - and ongoing - training. You can find out more at www.rapecrisiscentralscotland.co.uk or by phoning 01786 446887.

OTHER NEWS

Disclosure Applications

The Central Registered Body in Scotland (CRBS), based in Stirling, is a service operated by Volunteer Development Scotland. It was established by the Scottish Executive to provide free Disclosures (police checks) for volunteers in the voluntary sector working with children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk.

The CRBS has these announcements:

Turnaround Time

CRBS ask for continued co-operation to allow a reasonable timescale of **3 weeks** before making enquiries on specific applications outstanding. This enables full processing of Disclosure Applications to Disclosure Scotland and time to record their receipt and subsequent action.

Multiple Cover Sheet Errors

Some time ago CRBS published a list of the most frequent errors in Disclosure Application forms. However, they are still finding multiple cover sheets submitted without the rear of the form being completed. This section contains the signature of the applicant, which has to be checked against the signature held on the CRBS system for each signatory, along with other relevant information.

Disclosure Applications cannot be submitted without this signature. To prevent delays in providing Disclosure Certificates, organisations should remember that this is a **double sided form** and **both** sides should be completed accordingly.

CRBS can be contacted by email: info@crbs.org.uk

STOP PRESS.....Last Chance to Book!

Health, Housing and Regeneration Partnerships and Policies for Healthier Communities

Monday 12 May 2008, Edinburgh

It is your **last chance** to book for this important conference, which is essential for the Third Sector.

This conference looks at how national and local government, the NHS, Housing organisations, the voluntary sector and others can work in partnership to make the Government's Health and Wellbeing ambitions a reality. The third sector needs to make its presence felt from the start.

We will hear from key stakeholders from these sectors and a practical example of how this cross cutting approach is already working a comparable health economy; Finland.

This conference is the first event to examine how this new health and wellbeing landscape will shape up: you can't afford to miss it.

You can view the agenda and regular updates by clicking here <http://conferences.holyrood.com/content/view/423/> or book now at http://conferences.holyrood.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=425&Itemid=0

Any questions, please email healthiercommunities@holyrood.com, or call 0131 272 2130.