



Spring 2011 Newsletter

**From the Executive Committee
Staff & Volunteers**

at the

**Welwyn Hatfield
Community & Voluntary Service**

**Created by
Alison Charles**

Publication of events and services in this newsletter do not necessarily carry the endorsement by the WHCVS. Although care has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of publication, WH CVS cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies.

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Registered Charity No. 267272



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LOCAL NEWS

WELWYN HATFIELD CVS - MOVING

The WHCVS office will be closed from Fri 25th Mar - Fri 1st Apr

We will re-open on Mon 4th Apr at our new premises at:

40 Town Centre
Hatfield
Herts
AL10 0JJ

All contact numbers will remain the same



THE WELWYN HATFIELD ETHNIC MINORITY GROUP - MOVING

As we are moving, the office will be closed from
Friday 25th March until Friday 8th April.

We will re-open on Monday 11th April at our new premises
C/O CDA for Herts, Birchwood Avenue, Hatfield, AL10 0PS

DONATIONS AT CHRISTMAS

"Thank You" to Brookmans Park URC and
Our Lady's, St Bonaventures and Holy Family
RC Churches who again donated
Christmas presents.

We distributed them to 7 of our member
organisations which was gratefully received
by all.

Thank you once again



LOCAL NEWS

WHCVS SPEED MATCHING EVENT



We would like to say "Thank You" to the 10 organisations who registered and took part in our Speed Matching event on 7th March. Many volunteers came out to see what volunteering opportunities organisations had to offer.



We, the WHCVS, are in the process of interviewing 12 potential volunteers who showed an interest in either becoming a volunteer driver for our Community Car Scheme or gardeners for our Gardening Scheme.

Remember if you are members of the WHCVS and are looking for volunteers please contact the **Volunteer Bureau** who may be able to help on **01707 274861** or email whvolbureau@whcvs.org.uk

SPECIALIST WELFARE BENEFITS & DEBT ADVICE - AN EXPANDED RESOURCE FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

If you have clients who need Welfare Benefits or Debt Advice, please consider our specialist Welfare Benefits and Debt Service.

The Legal Service Commission recently increased our contract for this work and the service is free to those on low incomes or income based benefits.

We offer a full debt service, carry out Debt Relief Orders and specialise in Welfare Benefit appeals.

Clients can telephone 0344 515 1944 during office hours to arrange an appointment at either our Hatfield office or Hertford and Letchworth surgeries.

In addition, we continue to provide comprehensive Housing Advice and employ a practising housing solicitor for court representation work. We provide a Court Desk service at Hertford, St Albans and Watford Courts on Housing Possession days.

For more information please contact:

Martin Earl, Service Manager, on 0344 515 1943.

**Shelter Hertfordshire Advice Service
Queensway House, Queensway, Hatfield,
Hertfordshire, AL10 0LW**

LOCAL NEWS

HERTFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Hertfordshire Children's Fund Committee Chair

Hertfordshire Children's Fund is looking for a new ambassador to lead a small group of volunteers in their efforts to provide practical support to families on low incomes.

The Fund has been running for 14 years and has been able to make a big difference to children living in poverty in Hertfordshire.

For more information on this **volunteer role** please contact: **Johanna Mason** or **Sarah Tisdall** at **Hertfordshire Community Foundation**

Tel: **01707 251351**

Email: office@hertsconf.org.uk

SOURCE: HERTFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



FRIENDS GET A HELPING HAND

Thanks to a grant from the Big Lottery Fund, the Reaching Communities programme, Guideposts Trust, who are based in Ware, can now develop their existing Friendship Scheme.

The Friendship Scheme recruits volunteers from all sectors of the community and matches people with learning disabilities and volunteers together based on their personalities, hobbies, interests, personal history and location. Volunteers support their friends to access community/leisure facilities, develop interests and life skills and extend their social networks.

Sarah Betsworth, Big Lottery Fund's Head of the East of England Region said: "Friendships are one of the most important relationships in life and Guideposts Trust is doing vital work in helping individuals who are lonely or isolated to connect with others. We are so pleased that many more people who are cut off from social contact will be able to benefit from this service thanks to this grant."

With the appointment of the new Friendship Scheme Coordinator we have lots of existing plans to expand this project into Hertsmere, offer more group activities, such as informal training, workshops on topics such as health, emotions and relationships and open the service to young people from the age of 16.

For further news and information please contact **Emma Metcalfe, Friendship Scheme Coordinator, on 01920 484946**

SOURCE: GUIDEPOSTS TRUST



GUIDEPOSTS

LOCAL NEWS

MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES IN HERTFORDSHIRE HANDBOOK

Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership (HCTP) has made a number of changes to improve its arrangements for ensuring that vulnerable children and young people receive the right response at the right time. As part of this work, we have recently completed a review of the thresholds for accessing targeted and specialist services, and finalised a revised version of the *Meeting the Needs of Children and Families in Hertfordshire* handbook.

The handbook, which has been signed off by the Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership and Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board, sets out clear thresholds which will support practitioners in making decisions on how best to respond to the needs of children and families. It is expected that all agencies in the county will work to the thresholds as set out in this handbook. It is therefore important that the children's workforce in Hertfordshire have a clear understanding of the threshold guidance in their work with children and families, and that it is consistently used across the county.

Printed copies of the *Meeting the Needs of Children and Families in Hertfordshire* handbook are being distributed to a range of services in the county, including schools, health, GP practices, police, the voluntary and community sector, CSF services and district/borough councils etc. Services may request additional copies of the handbook by emailing meetingtheneeds@hertscc.gov.uk. The handbook is also available online at www.hertsdirect.org/integratedpractice.

An interim services contact list has been developed to aid signposting to other services. Please note that this is not a comprehensive directory of services. It is only an interim solution as we work towards developing a more comprehensive Family Services Directory. This contact list will be updated regularly. The interim services contact list is available online at www.hertsdirect.org/integratedpractice. You will also find links on this page, to other specific service directories, such as 'Numbers U Need', a directory of services for young people and the 'Ultimate Guide' which is a directory of services for young parents.

Additional support and guidance will be available through District Integrated Practice Networks and District Partnership Teams. The teams' contact details for Integrated Practice are on the back page of the handbook. Work is underway to develop a DVD for use by services/teams/agencies to aid discussion and understanding of the thresholds. meetingtheneeds@hertscc.gov.uk.

SOURCE: VIA EMAIL



NATIONAL



DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

Are you holding an event we can attend?



We have a grant (£100 - £3000) available to help with any additional cost

We would like to come along and deliver a presentation about the digital switchover. So if you are holding an event e.g. a coffee morning; lunch club; community meeting through to a large networking event and these can be for end users and/or organisations, please get in touch.

The presentation looks at the **digital switchover** process, highlights what people need to do to make sure they are ready for the Digital Switchover and explains the **help scheme** that is available.

We are looking for events that include end users or organisations from one or more of our six target groups:

1. Older People
2. People who are socially isolated
3. People with sensory, mobility or dexterity impairments
4. People who have mental health conditions
5. People with English as a second language
6. People with learning difficulties

For more information about the grant scheme or to book a presentation please contact **Rachel Farr** at rachel.farr@i-trust.org.uk or **Giulia Vicari** on giulia.vicari@i-trust.org.uk or call the office on **01223 861760**.

We are also looking for organisations to get involved and help us deliver these presentations at different events and have a grant available for this.

SOURCE: VIA EMAIL

PORTABILITY OF CRB CHECKS

The Criminal Records Bureau has announced that it intends to make it possible for employers to share CRB checks, reducing the need for multiple checks. The Government aims to introduce this as part of legislation in the Freedom Bill, once detailed proposals have been modelled, developed and tested. <http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/faqs/portability.aspx>

SOURCE: INFO DIGEST DEC 2010

NATIONAL



2011 Census

The national Census takes place every ten years and is a count of every person living in the UK. The next Census will take place on 27th March 2011.

The Census matters to everyone as its population counts are used to allocate money to Hertfordshire for local services in the next 10 years. These include health, the police, schools and colleges, housing, roads and public transport and other services provided by both the County and District Councils' such as sports & leisure facilities. Businesses also use Census information to help plan where to provide jobs and facilities such as shops.

The Office for National to plan for the Census and to encourage and help everyone to be counted.

The Census forms will start landing on doorsteps in the middle of March 2011, you'll recognize it by the purple Census logo at the top of the form. Once you've completed the form, place it back in the envelope that's provided and pop it in a postbox. For the first time it will be possible to complete the Census on-line, using the unique code at the top of your form.

As we get nearer to Census day, more information will be provided, including about how you can get help if needed. If you wish to find out more now, the Census website contains lots of information at www.census.gov.uk

SOURCE: VIA EMAIL

Help tomorrow take shape

FIND HR SUPPORT IN YOUR AREA WITH NCVO's NEW DIRECTORIES

NCVO has developed a series of directories to help make it easier for voluntary and community sector employers to find appropriate HR services at a local, regional or national level. The entries in each directory make clear how you can contact the service provider, providing their location and the geographical region(s) they serve. Most importantly, each entry identifies the key HR services that each provider offers, so you are able to make informed decisions about which providers to contact. The directories highlight HR support providers from across nine regions. To download your copy, visit: www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/hr-services-mapping

SOURCE: VIA EMAIL

NATIONAL

VETTING & BARRING

The government last week unveiled plans to scale back the vetting and barring scheme (VBS) and criminal records regime to common sense levels while ensuring vulnerable groups are appropriately protected.

Below is a summary of the reviews and recommendations.

The proposals include:

- the merging of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) to form a streamlined new body providing a proportionate barring and criminal records checking service;
- a large reduction of the number of positions requiring checks to just those working most closely and regularly with children and vulnerable adults;
- portability of criminal records checks between jobs to cut down on needless bureaucracy;
- an end to a requirement for those working or volunteering with vulnerable groups to register with the VBS and then be continuously monitored by the ISA; and
- stopping employers who knowingly request criminal records checks on individuals who are not entitled to them.

Vetting and barring Scheme Remodelling Review – Report and Recommendations

The VBS had been created to help safeguard children and vulnerable adults, following the Bichard Inquiry and was designed to check the records of those who wanted to work with vulnerable groups. In June 2010, ministers announced that the planned implementation of the VBS was to be halted, pending a thorough review.

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 sets out a framework for the scope and operation of the vetting and barring scheme. New primary legislation will amend this to scale back the scheme, in particular, through the abolition of the registration and monitoring requirements and the re-definition of the range of posts to which barring arrangements apply.

Report and recommendations following the review of the vetting and barring scheme can be found here: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/vbs-report?view=Binary>

SOURCE: VIA EMAIL

HEALTH

NEWS FROM THE HOSPITALS

The maternity services building at the Lister Hospital was handed over to the hospital Trust in November 2010. This will allow the hospital to use it for the existing programme of births whilst the existing buildings can be brought up to the new standard. It will not be until October/November 2011 before it can accept births from the QEII. There will be both a Consultant-led & Midwife-led ward in adjacent birthing areas, plus theatres and an expanded neonatal department on the ground floor. On the first floor there will be a new reception area and day assessment unit together with 2 improved hospital wards. The QEII's neonatal and gynaecology inpatient services will move there at the same time.



Antenatal, postnatal & outpatient services will continue at the Lister, QEII & Hertford County Hospitals after the 2011 transfers. The East of England Strategic NHS Trust has been asked to review if a standalone midwife-led ward until could safely remain at the QEII site without any other support, as was tried at Hemel until withdrawn.

In Mid April 2011, the opening of the Lister SurgiCentre will mean that these changes will occur:

- The Essendon Eye Theatre will close with most work going to the SurgiCentre.
- On both sites there will be a reduction in elective inpatient services with 23 hr & short stay orthopaedic work going to the SurgiCentre.
- The remaining day surgery from both sites will go to Queens Wing and Essendon Ward.
- All fractured hip surgery will go to the Princes Wing theatres.
- All remaining planned orthopaedic surgery will go to Princes Wing.
- All emergency trauma orthopaedic cases will be at the Lister.
- All of the Trust's emergency general surgery will be at the Lister.
- Dedicated plastics trauma theatre sessions at the Lister.

November 2011

- New Maternity unit fully open
- All inpatient obstetric & gynaecological surgical services brought together at Lister

Early 2014 will see the additional facilities at the Lister and that will mean they will:

1. Allow the Trust to achieve best clinical practice & improve outcomes for patients.
2. Create a critical mass of clinical & medical staff on one site, thus enabling the Trust to sustain a wider range of high quality services than would otherwise be possible, along with the introduction of new technologies.
3. Only means of maintaining viable 24/7 medical staffing rotas for all of the Trust's services, thus ensuring patients have faster access to doctors - especially at night & weekends.
4. Facilitate the modernisation of the Trust's clinical facilities, improving its attractiveness to patients at a time of an increasing choice of alternative options.
5. Improve the experience of patients & their relatives who access the services offered by the Trust
6. Enhance the Trust's ability to attract and retain high quality staff, whilst at the same time allowing for when acute care is provided in community settings.

SOURCE: ERIC SHERRARD, FRIENDS OF WRAFTON HOUSE

FUNDING

For funding news please visit our website on www.whcvs.org.uk or www.hertscvs.org.uk



CO-OPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP COMMUNITY FUND

The Co-operative Membership Fund helps local communities throughout the UK. Between £100 and £2,000 is available for positive work in the community. <http://www.co-operative.coop/membership/local-communities/community-fund/>

SOURCE: HERTS CVS INFO DIGEST, DEC 10

ULVERSCROFT FOUNDATION

The Ulverscroft Foundation supports projects which will have a positive effect on the quality of life of visually impaired people.

<http://www.foundation.ulverscroft.com/>

SOURCE: HERTS CVS INFO DIGEST, DEC 10



WAITROSE COMMUNITY MATTERS



Each Waitrose branch has £1,000 (or £500 for convenience shops) each month to share out between three local good causes. <http://www.johnlewispartnership.co.uk/display.aspx?masterid=1d1b3ed8-af38-4649-88fb-ad44b0a97ae9&navigationid=622>

SOURCE: HERTS CVS INFO DIGEST, DEC 10

UK ONLINE CENTRES

If you can provide public access to computers and the internet you can join the UK Online Centre's Network and receive support and funding for your organisation.

<http://www.ukonlinecentres.com/corporate-pages/centre-partners-network/get-involved.html>

SOURCE: HERTS CVS INFO DIGEST, DEC 10

TRAINING

CIEH LEVEL 2 HEALTH & SAFETY AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Tuesday 29th March 2011

**Viewpoint
56 Bridge Road East
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire
AL7 1JU**

£30 members
£40 non-members

This includes an exam paper and supporting course book, lunch & refreshments

Parking is available across the road in the B&Q car park

For more details & a booking form please contact:
Alison Charles on 01707 274861 or via email at a.charles@whcvs.org.uk

BASIC TEACHER TRAINING

A three week introductory course in Basic Teacher training here at:

**Central Herts YMCA
Peartree Computer Suite
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire
AL7 3UL**

**7:00pm - 8:00pm
Monday evenings 9th - 23rd May 2011**



This will cover how to set up, prepare for, beginnings/endings of lessons, how to set up a classroom/Smartboard, techniques on how to ask questions, how to read body language of a class, etc.

If you are interested in booking on the course please phone **01707 351400** or email computersuite@ymcacentralherts.org.uk

Jo Franks
Computer Suite Manager
SOURCE: CENTRAL HERTS YMCA

TRAINING

Invitation to 'Proving our Worth' - on 6th April in Watford (FREE event inc light lunch)

The landscape for the voluntary and community sector (VCS) is changing and the ways of funding / commissioning / grants etc are changing too. This half day event will aim to give some insight into the changes and in particular giving ways in which we as a sector can be 'Proving our Worth' individually and collectively.

I am fully aware that there is fantastic work going on out in the wider community of Pro-Action members, but also that some of that work is not captured and recorded, so making the impact of the work difficult for others to judge.

The purpose of the event is two-fold

- To raise awareness and give practical ways to capture / record / evaluate the work that we do (*small-medium-large orgs*)
- To launch the 'Service Delivery Group', allowing organisations to work together to co-ordinate and co-operate in a funding / commissioning strategy within Hertfordshire. (*medium to large orgs*)

Members of Pro-Action are very diverse in operation and size, therefore I have put in brackets the probable size of organisations that would be interested in each area.

Attached is the agenda/ booking / questionnaire form. If you would like to attend, please complete the form and return it back to me on the following email nick@pro-actionherts.org . If you wish to attend just the start and middle of the event but not the launch of the Service Delivery Group (at the end of the event), that is not a problem.

Any further questions or queries please contact Nick Webb, Chief Executive

Pro-Action

Sylvia Adams House, 24 The Common, Hatfield, Herts AL10 0NB
Tel - 01707 276859 Mob - 07827 947669

It you would like to advertise your organisation or upcoming event please contact **Alison Charles** on **01707 274861** or email a.charles@whcvs.org.uk

TRAINING

INCREASING LEGACY INCOME

Tuesday 19th July 2011

Kingston Smith, 105 St Peter's Street, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3EJ

4:30pm registration - Seminar 5pm - 6:15pm

Cost: £20 for Herts CVS Members

There will be a brief overview of recent changes for charities on

- The Public Benefit Test
- Gift Aid
- VAT issues

Followed by

- How to formulate a legacy marketing strategy
- Understanding donor motivation for making gifts in wills
- How to broach the subject with potential donors

For a booking form please contact St Albans CVS for a booking form on **01727 852657** or training@cvsstalbens.org.uk

WEBSITE

REGISTER TO RECEIVE

A National awareness campaign is being launched by the online charity Giving World Online over the next few weeks which will benefit charities and community groups around the UK.

Now is the time for charities and community groups to register to be able to access those goods. As goods become available on the Giving World Online website, only those charities and community groups already registered will have immediate access.

Giving World Online is a charity set up to offer a simple solution for companies with surplus goods to dispose of. They register with Giving World Online and publicise their goods onto charities and community groups who can access the items free of charge to support the people they work with.

A television advert is due to be broadcasted on Discovery Networks in April, targeted at engaging more businesses to support the work of UK charities and community groups helping people in need by donating unwanted goods and equipment through the website.

SOURCE: VIA EMAIL

AND FINALLY...

FOR FUN!!!

Only smart people can read this. I don't believe that I could actually understand what I was reading. The phonemic power of the human mind, according to a research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be in the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole. Amazing huh? Yeah and I always thought spelling was important! If you can read this pass it on!!

