

# Voluntary Action Barnsley (VAB) BCVN Bulletin March 2009

## New IT/ Training Suite available at The Core from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2009

Voluntary Action Barnsley is pleased to announce that a new meeting room will be available at The Core from May 2009 which can be used as an IT suite/training room.

The meeting room will include;

- Up to ten laptops
- Free WiFi
- An interactive whiteboard so you update/change/write on your documents as you train
- A projector and screen
- And access to our IT support Officer on the day

This room is flexible and can still be hired as a meeting room with or without equipment.

If you would like to have a look at any of our meeting/training and conference facilities then please do not hesitate to contact us on 01226 320 100 to arrange a tour. All prices can be found on our website [www.vabarnsley.org.uk](http://www.vabarnsley.org.uk)

## Funding News

### The People's Millions 2009

The People's Millions, Big Lottery Fund's programme that allows the public to decide where Lottery funding should go, launched earlier this month.

Organisations are able to apply for up to £50,000 for projects that will improve the quality of life of local communities through transforming the local environment, or provide opportunities or facilities for enjoying the local environment.

Eight short listed regional projects will go head to head for the public vote on ITV's Calendar programme in November and the five projects with the most votes will be awarded a grant.




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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE





Please pass on details to any groups and colleagues you feel would be interested in the competition.

The application deadline this year is 12 noon on **Friday 15 May 2009**.

Entry packs for The People's Millions are available now on our website <<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peoplesmillions>> or by calling our hotline on 0845 0 10 11 12

**Alison Crawley**  
**Big Lottery Fund**  
**Regional Communications Officer (Yorkshire and the Humber)**  
**(T) 0113 224 5344**  
**(F) 0113 244 0363**

### **BT Community Connections: Now open for applications**

We are delighted to announce that BT Community Connections is now open for you to apply for a free laptop and a year's broadband connection.

To date over 5,500 community groups and projects have benefitted from the scheme including silver-surfers, conservation organisations, family support groups, sports teams and youth groups. There are approximately 1,000 award packages on offer in 2009/10, so make sure your group doesn't miss out!


To find out more about the scheme, read inspirational case studies and to apply online please log on to [www.btcommunityconnections.com](http://www.btcommunityconnections.com)

Please note the next closing dates:

- Postal applications - Tuesday 9 June 2009 at 17.30
- Online applications - Thursday 11 June 2009 at 17.30

We encourage you to apply as soon as possible as applications received after the closing date will not be accepted, but they will be put through to the second round of the scheme. A list of all winners will be available on the website on Monday 10 August 2009 and if you are a winner you will receive formal notification in mid August.

Please use the applications rules and guidance notes to help you fill out your application, which contain hints and tips to help you answer the questions fully. If you have any problems filling out the form, please contact our team



on 0845 257 6792. We wish you the very best of the luck with your application.

Kind regards,

**BT Community Connections Team**  
**0845 257 6792**

### Children in Need

The mission of BBC Children in Need is to positively change the lives of disadvantaged children and young people in the UK. Our vision is a society where each and every child and young person is supported to realise their potential. We provide support in the form of grants to organisations that work with people under the age of 19 who:

- are living with illness, distress, neglect or abuse
- have a disability or have caring responsibilities
- have behavioural or psychological difficulties
- are living in poverty or situations of deprivation

We have three grant deadlines remaining in 2009. We are looking for community organisations that work with groups of disadvantaged young people to apply. Closing dates for applications are April 15, July 15 and October 15.

This year we are proactively organising six workshop sessions. Details of these sessions are detailed in the workshop advert PDF attachment. We would be grateful if you could distribute the attached info to your contacts and/or include in any e-bulletins or newsletters that you circulate.

In addition - we are aware that we have had to restrict ourselves to six sessions across the year - due to admin limitations. However - if there is a recognised need to deliver sessions in your area and you can take on the administration for the event then we'd be delighted to come and deliver.

Finally, if you would like more information on our funding criteria or would like to signpost groups, please find our contact details.

David Carnaffan - Regional Officer - Newcastle - 0191 2441401  
[david.carnaffan@bbc.co.uk](mailto:david.carnaffan@bbc.co.uk)

Elaine James - Regional Officer - Leeds - 0113 2247155  
[elaine.james@bbc.co.uk](mailto:elaine.james@bbc.co.uk)



## Local News

### **Good practice in a changing befriending field A regional networking and developmental opportunity for Befriending Practitioners**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at THE CORE in Barnsley**

This event will provide you with the opportunity to meet with fellow practitioners from within the befriending field to exchange information and share experiences of co-ordinating or managing a befriending programme.

#### **Aims**

- Introduce you to the delivery of befriending both nationally and regionally
- Provide you with good practice examples in relation to managing and operating your befriending programme
- Introduce you to safe working practices within the befriending field
- Enable you to evidence the impact of your befriending programme

#### **Audience**

This event is specifically designed for those individuals managing, coordinating or responsible for the delivery of befriending provision.

#### **Learning outcomes**

- Enhance your knowledge about current befriending practice
- Develop effective management and operational practices based upon best practice examples
- Recognise the importance of safe working practices and policies to safeguard your volunteers, clients and staff team
- Develop your knowledge and understanding of project impact measurement methods

#### **Good practice sharing**

Delegates should be prepared to bring one or more example(s) of good practice from their befriending programme to share with other practitioners and MBF (i.e.) volunteer application form, client referral form, volunteer/client handbook, matching form and exit questionnaires.

#### **Format**

Full day event involving facilitator-led presentations, group discussion and activities.

**How much does it cost?** The event is free of charge to practitioners and includes lunch; however a cancellation fee will be charged for non attendees without prior notice.

**BOOK YOU'RE PLACE ONLINE or call 0161 787 8600**

[http://www.mandbf.org.uk/no\\_cache/news/events](http://www.mandbf.org.uk/no_cache/news/events)



## **SOUTH YORKSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MOVE TO NEW HOME**

EXCITING times lie ahead for the South Yorkshire Community Foundation after its move to a new state of the art office space.

The forward thinking charitable organisation is the latest to move to the G1 building, part of the Gateway Business Centre developments in the east end of Sheffield, and made the switch official on March 2.

The area has undergone something of a transformation in recent years, and SYCF are looking to become part of its rise to prominence.

Pauline Grice, chief executive of SYCF, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have made this move, into what is one of the most exciting business space developments in Sheffield.

"We are taking great strides as an organisation, and are looking forward to pushing on in our new premises."

SYCF's new home on Leeds Road in Attercliffe, just next to Don Valley Stadium, comprises two large office spaces, two substantial meeting rooms as well as disabled access into the building.

"The ergonomic design of the building will enable us to improve efficiency and effectiveness ever further.

"The unit is extremely impressive and reflects what we are about as an organisation. The two large meeting rooms and disabled access will help us to reach more people than ever in the business and voluntary sectors and further the services we can offer."

The full address for SYCF from March 2 onwards will be **Unit 3 – G1 Building, 6 Leeds Road, Sheffield, S9 3TY.**


All phone numbers and e-mail addresses will remain unchanged.

Jon Warburton

Press Officer

### **Radio Barnsley**

Radio Barnsley invite you to send any useful info you may have. They would gladly read this out on Radio Barnsley, whilst not directly broadcasting to Barnsley; they do have quite a few listeners in the Borough and then beyond around the UK.



Any thing at all would be welcome; they may even be able to follow it up with an interview to give more publicity to your group.

**Dave Richardson, Chairman**  
**From the Heart of South Yorkshire, Radio Barnsley**  
**Blucher Street**  
**Barnsley**  
**S70 1AP**  
**Tel: 01226 213121 or Text: 07796 355208**

### **How the region works**

**Wednesday 29th April 4pm - 6.00pm**  
**Tuesday 23rd June 9.30am - 11.30am**

**Do you understand how governance structures work at the regional level?**

**Where does the voluntary and community sector fit in?**  
**What does the Regional Forum do?**

To help de-mystify the region and the new governance arrangements, explain the jargon and clarify how it all works, the Regional Forum has organised Information Sessions for Wednesday 29th April and Tuesday 23rd June 2009.

The session will run at the times shown to answer all your questions about our sector and our region, to help make sense of it all. For more information or to book your place, contact Ian Gardner on 0113 394 2300 or email mailto: [ian.gardner@regionalforum.org.uk](mailto:ian.gardner@regionalforum.org.uk)

## **General News**


### **New Compact in November**

By John Plummer, Third Sector Online, 26 March 2009

Sir Bert Massie, Commissioner for the Compact, recently received a letter from Kevin Brennan, minister for the third sector, and Simon Blake, chair of Compact Voice, asking him to lead the process to redraft the document.

The Compact has not been revised since former Prime Minister Tony Blair established it in 1998 to outline how the voluntary and public sectors should behave towards each other.

The letter asks Massie to take "what is best from the existing documents rather than start from scratch and ensure that the new version takes into account recent developments in law, policy and practice".



The Office of the Third Sector and Compact Voice are establishing a cross-sector advisory panel to oversee the issues the new version should cover. Commissioning is expected to feature prominently.

The panel's recommendations will go out to consultation in the summer before the new document is launched during November's Compact Week.

Revising the Compact was one of Massie's main recommendations after last year's national debate on the future of the Compact. But there is still no news of any developments on his other main recommendation - putting the commission on a statutory footing.

Richard Corden, chief executive of the commission, said he was relaxed about the timeframe. "The refresh is more important and the one that can proceed without parliamentary time," he said.

### **Poppy Support**

We would like to alert you to the financial and other welfare provision available under Poppy Support. If you [or your member organisations](#) have serving or ex-service clients or their dependants as clients, it may be that they could access such help.

Poppy Support is detailed at <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/can-we-help>

## **The Regional Community Panel is looking for new members**

The Community Panel brings community voices to the heart of the regional empowerment programme.

The Community Panel comprises people who are active at neighbourhood / community level around the issues of local and community voice and democracy. Some may be paid workers, but most will be residents who are active in an unpaid capacity. The Panel draws on this knowledge, skills and experience in order to improve community empowerment and engagement across the region.

Members of the Panel will already be active in their community and will bring direct experience of how policies on community empowerment and engagement work on the ground. They will contribute community perceptions of what works and what are the barriers, lodging issues and starting the development of a community auditing mechanism.

An application form and further details can be downloaded from [www.yhep.org.uk](http://www.yhep.org.uk)



## G20 London Summit is being held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009

This Summit represents a real opportunity for the Third Sector to influence the global debate on economic recovery and social change. Some background to the Summit is below.

### How can you help?

OTS would like to encourage strategic partners and their members to:-

- Join the debate online at [www.londonsummit.gov.uk](http://www.londonsummit.gov.uk)
- Send this email on to your members and volunteers/patrons and encourage them to get involved
- Tell us about anything you may be planning on G20 and other lobbying events around the Summit by emailing Amo Kalar, Private Secretary to Campbell Robb, [amo.kalar@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:amo.kalar@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk)

### Background

- The private summit of G20 Leaders will involve a number of meetings including a working lunch. The Summit will be followed by a briefing for the press.
- **The goal for the London Summit** is for Leaders to agree to immediate action to support the global economy, safeguard jobs and protect the poorest, plus reform to the international financial system to prevent future crises. This will amount to a *Global New Deal* that will secure recovery and long term stability and growth.
- All those countries that were present in Washington have been invited: the leaders of G20 countries, Spain, the Netherlands and the European Commission.
- Additional representatives from Africa (Ethiopia's President Meles as Chair of NEPAD) and Asia (Thailand's Prime Minister Abhisit as Chair of ASEAN).
- The Heads of key international institutions including the UN, World Bank and IMF will also be invited to contribute to relevant parts of the agenda.

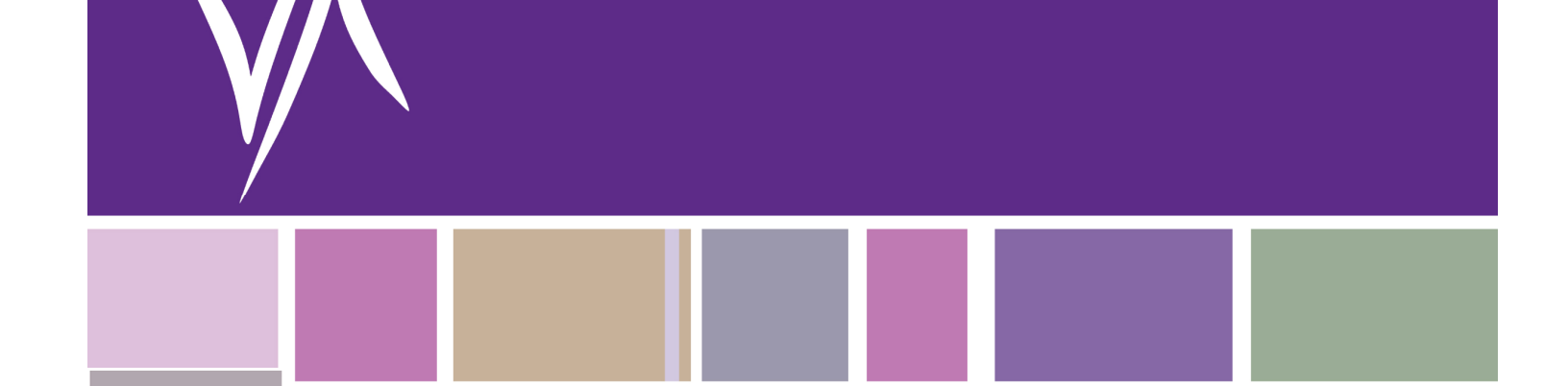
Hemant Acharya Policy Advisor, Office of the Third Sector|Cabinet Office|0207 276 6045 [Hemant.Acharya@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Hemant.Acharya@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk)

## MySociety

mySociety runs a series of websites from a charitable project (the charity is called UK Citizens Online Democracy) that gives people simple, tangible benefits in the civic and community aspects of their lives. mySociety represents a lot of widely shared thoughts and concerns about the problems facing democracy, government and technology in the UK at the moment.

### Their sites are:

**TheyWorkForYou** tells you everything you could want to know about what your Member of Parliament gets up to in Westminster.



**No 10 Petitions** Built by mySociety for the Prime Minister's office, this site has generated news stories that have regularly made the front pages since its inception.

**FixMyStreet** A site where people can report, view, or discuss local problems like graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or street lighting.

**PledgeBank** PledgeBank gets things done that require a bunch of people to work together.

**WhatDoTheyKnow** This definitive Freedom of Information site will help you make Freedom of Information requests and read all about what other people have been asking, and what replies they've been getting.

**WriteToThem** is the only website in the UK you can use to contact any of your elected representatives. Enter a postcode and it'll tell you who all your local representatives are, and a bit about who you should contact for which reasons.

To access all these websites visit: <http://www.mysociety.org/projects/> and bookmark your favourites.

**If you wish to contribute an article to this bulletin please contact Naomi Douglas on 01226 320100 or e mail [naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk](mailto:naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk)**