

Welcome to our new look BCVN bulletin

To receive
regular info from us
please
contact

naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk

for a registration
form (free).

Voluntary Action Barnsley (VAB) BCVN Bulletin

VAB NEWS

Voluntary Action Barnsley's (VAB) Art Competition

VAB is holding a competition open to young people to design a piece of art which will be displayed at The Core, the new centre for Barnsley's third sector (voluntary and community sector). The three winning entries will be unveiled at the official opening of The Core on December 2nd 2008. The winners will be invited to attend this event. The artwork will continue to be displayed in the reception area so that members of the public can come and view the artwork.

The Core is currently being built and is on schedule to open in Autumn 2008. Go to www.vabarnsley.org.uk/thecore.php to find out more about The Core.

Theme

Reflections of Barnsley/ Your Barnsley/ How is Barnsley changing for you? The theme is very broad so that you can be creative! However, we would like the art to reflect your interpretations of Barnsley.

The artwork

VAB is looking for three pieces of artwork, no bigger than A1 in size (841 x 594 mm). Alternatively, you can design a sculpture (no bigger than 2m high and 1m wide).

You must also tell us your name, telephone number, address and data of birth plus a short paragraph about your piece of art.

There will be three age categories

- 18-21
- 12-17
- 11 and under

Closing date: **Friday 17th October**

Entries should be sent to:

Naomi Douglas, Voluntary Action Barnsley
35 Queens Rd, Barnsley, S71 1AN



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VAB NEWS CONT...

Next BCVN Meeting will be held on Tuesday September 16th from 10:00 to 12:30 (approx)

**Metrodome Leisure Centre Queens Rd
Barnsley
S71 1AN**

Already on the agenda we have; Charity Bank, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Gillian Dinsey, KeyFund and South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau.
Full agenda and booking form to follow, however please pencil this date in your diary if you wish to attend.

Online Directory – Get Online!

**Are you looking to recruit volunteers?
Are you looking to increase membership?
Are you looking to raise money?**

Here at VAB we are always being asked for information about the voluntary and community groups in Barnsley. Therefore, one of the new features on the site will be an online directory of groups in Barnsley.

In order that your group or organisation may be featured in this directory (FREE of charge) please fill your details in online at :

www.vabarnsley.org.uk/register

Why register?

All groups who register will get a password to our site that allows you to update the following sections with your news. This website will offer you free advertising and you can fill in as much or as little info as you like.

**Add your details
Add your news
Add your events
Add your job vacancies**

And because you have your own password you can update your details whenever you want!

**Adult Services Provider Forum
Monday 15 September 2008**

09:30am – 13:00pm

Priory Campus

(Lunch Included)

The quarterly event of the Adult Health & Social Care Provider Network, giving you the opportunity to keep up to date with what's happening in health and social care in Barnsley and to meet with the Third and Independent sector representatives. Programme and booking form to be circulated during August. For more information please contact the Participation Team on 01226 299590.



VAB NEWS CONT...

Representatives Required

Adult Commissioning, Finance & Performance Board

Nominations are invited for both a voluntary and an independent sector representative to the Adult Commissioning, Finance & Performance Board.

On behalf of the Joint Agency Group (the formal sub committee of the Primary Care Trust and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council) the Adult Board will be responsible for the Commissioning, Performance and Finance of health and social care services within the pooled budget. The Adult Board will also contribute to the work of the Adults and Communities Well-being Partnership, supporting the wider agenda of Adult well-being.

The views of the non-statutory service providers are extremely important. We need to ensure that we take advantage of this opportunity to help shape the future of health and social care in Barnsley.

If you may be interested in becoming an Adult Board member on behalf of the Independent or Voluntary sector and would like to find out more about the role, please contact Angela or Gail on 01226 299590 for an informal discussion.

Breastfeeding Link Worker Project

Supporting Barnsley to be a Breastfeeding Friendly Town.

Would you like to be a volunteer breastfeeding peer supporter on the Postnatal or Neonatal ward @ Barnsley Hospital?

Would you like to volunteer within the Breastfeeding Link Worker Project?

There are 168hrs in a week could you spare a couple?

For more information Contact

The Breastfeeding Link Worker Team @ Voluntary Action Barnsley:

T: 01226 242726

E: bfink@vabarnsey.org.uk

A Voluntary Action Barnsley Project Funded By Fit For the future.

Legal Advice Surgeries

Surgery appointments are available on:


Thursday 4 September 2008

Tuesday 18 November 2008

For free of charge legal advice with a qualified solicitor about any legal issue which is currently effecting your organization.

If you would like to book an appointment or discuss your advice needs further, please contact Jane Jefferson or Ann Moffat on 0845 231 1313, or email:

advice@vabarnsley.org.uk.





VAB NEWS CONT...

Business Administration Level 2 & 3 Team Leading Level 2 & Management Level 3

Who are the NVQ's for? These awards are work oriented qualifications and are suitable for those who work as an administrator, team leader or manager for over 2 days a week. Places are free but are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis, after an initial assessment of individuals development needs.

What will it involve? This is a very flexible way to learn new things and gain a qualification; it is delivered on a 1 to 1 basis by an allocated assessor. It will involve you producing evidence of your work, submitting it to agreed deadlines, and meeting with your assessor regularly either at VAB or at your place of work. The programme will start in August 2008 and run to end of May 2009.

What do I need to do? Contact us immediately if you are interested! We can then give you more information about the relevant award, what support will be available to you and what commitment you will need to make in terms of time and work.

What are the benefits of NVQ's?

Employees will benefit from:	Employers will benefit from:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ A clearer understanding of their workplace responsibilities✦ The opportunity to develop new skills The recognition of existing skills & knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Improved staff performance and motivation✦ Improvements in the quality of service to customers Staff having a better understanding of systems/policies

Contact details: Ros Winsor at Voluntary Action Barnsley, 35 Queens Road, Barnsley S71 1AN, Telephone 01226 242726 or e-mail at ros.winsor@vabarnsley.org.uk

REPORT FROM NEETS STRATEGY GROUP JUNE 08

by Doreen Gwilliam (VAB) Third Sector Connexions Co-ordinator

The Neets Strategy Group meet monthly to ensure that Barnsley have a joined up response to the issue of young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs). Over the past years we have had some real success in reducing the number of young people who fall into the category.

We need a group that can identify priorities for Barnsley – Doreen Gwilliam from VAB will attend in the interim period. If any other Third sector organisation would like to take part please talk to Rick Lohan

RichardLohan@barnsley.gov.uk or Doreen on 01226 249468



EVENTS

NSPCC Volunteering Opportunity

Would you like to volunteer with NSPCC as an Independent Visitor who befriend children and young people who are in the care of the local authority. Your role will be to listen and talk with children and young people and offer support and advice.

If you would like to find out more - NSPCC are holding an open morning at their offices at 9 Churchfields Court, Barnsley on Saturday 16th August, 10am – 11.30am.

Training Consultation

Consultation is currently taking place with regard to introducing a legal right for employees to request time off work for training. If you want to feed your views into this consultation, please view the document 'Time to Train' at www.vabarnsley.org.uk/pdf/time2train.pdf

The consultation period runs from 18 June 2008 to 10 September 2008

Launch of the NSPCC Safe Communities Toolkit Tuesday 23 September 2008 Priory Campus

Sessions:

09:30 -12:30 (Light Lunch included)

13:00-16:00 (Light Lunch included)

18:00-21:00 (Refreshments included)

The Safe Communities Toolkit is designed to help community organisations get the essentials in place to safeguard the children they have contact with. A flyer and booking form for the launch event will be circulated shortly, alternatively you can reserve a place by telephone, contact the Participation Team on 01226 299590.

Lifestyles Community Fitness Centre marathon!

There is going to be a half marathon on Sunday 21st September, in Grimethorpe. Macmillan Cancer Research are the nominated charity and there have received a lot of positive input from them.

The event is aiming for around 200 - 250 participants for the events. There is a team of 3 organising the event, who have had plenty of support from local groups and nearby villages. It is the first event in this area and they hope to make it an annual event.

On the day the team do need around 100 volunteers, to help marshal the event, hand out goody bags, etc. the team would be very grateful for any feedback and appreciate any support that you could offer.

If you would like to help out please contact:

**Keely Johnson, Lifestyles Community Fitness Centre, Grimethorpe; Barnsley, S72 7FN
Tel: 01226 717899**

Full training and support will be provided.



Events Cont...

Introduction to the Barnsley LINK (Local Involvement Network)

Thursday 25th September 2008

10:30 – 1:00pm

Venue to be confirmed

As part of a number of measures which aim to achieve better health and social care by giving people and communities a stronger local voice, a new system of 150 Local Involvement Networks is currently being set up.

The role of each network will be to find out what people want from local services, to monitor and review the care provided and to tell those who run and commission services what the community thinks.

The LINK will also have certain powers, including the power to 'enter and view' specific services, to make recommendations to commissioners and to refer matters to the local Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It is expected that membership of the LINK will consist of a core set of committed members with additional participants who may choose just to be involved with the issues that matter most to them. Individuals and groups (including charities, community groups, faith groups and independent organisations) can all join the LINK.

In Barnsley the LINK will be hosted and supported by a partnership of Barnsley Arena, Voluntary Action Barnsley and Barnardos.

The 1st meeting for people who are interested in being part of the Barnsley LINK will be held Thursday 25th September 2008, 10:30am – 1pm, further details will be circulated shortly.

Please make this a date for your diary - come along and tell us what you would like from you Local Involvement Network!

Read on for Funding News.....



FUNDING

Grant Funding Opportunities to Support Coalfield Regeneration

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust's fourth funding programme commenced on the 1st April 2008 and will end on the 31st March 2011.

The Trust operates two grant programmes and is interested to hear from organisations who can deliver projects that fit with at least one of the following four themes:

Access to Employment

Preparing individuals for work and work experience by connecting them to employment opportunities by using existing agencies and programmes. Pilot schemes and network developments would also be considered if they were clearly additional.

Education and Skills

Encourage a return to work, first steps to learning, raising aspirations, improving skills and qualifications levels and providing accredited training over and above statutory duty.

Health and Wellbeing

Community based schemes that encourage a healthier lifestyle by preventing ill-health and promoting self help and support groups.

Access to Opportunities

Access to services and opportunities by addressing recognised barriers, childcare provision, benefits advice, money management and debt reduction schemes, credit union development, geographical isolation and community transport schemes.

Bridging the Gap

A Bridging the Gap grant can contribute towards eligible capital and revenue costs of a project for up to 12 months. It can contribute up to 100% of the total project costs, or a maximum of £10,000 to a larger project costing no more than £100,000 as long as the match funding package is complete. Voluntary organisations and community groups can apply.

Main Grants Programme

The Main Grant Programme is targeted at projects benefiting coalfield communities that are within the most deprived 30% in the country based upon the Government's Indices of Deprivation 2007. A grant can contribute towards revenue and/or capital costs to an overall maximum of **£300,000**. Voluntary organisations, community groups and statutory organisations can apply.

To register your interest and check your eligibility please contact Neil Topliss, the Yorkshire Programme Support Officer on 01709 - 765573 or e-mail neil.topliss@coalfields-regen.org.uk



Europa Nostra Awards (Cultural Heritage)

These Awards are awarded annually to:

- identify and promote best practices in the conservation of tangible cultural heritage;
 - stimulate the exchange of knowledge and experience throughout Europe;
 - enhance public awareness and appreciation of European cultural heritage;
- further encourage exemplary initiatives through the power of example.
Outstanding heritage achievements will be awarded in the following categories:

Category 1: Conservation.

Category 2: Research.

Category 3: Dedicated service by individuals or organisations.

Category 4: Education, training and awareness-raising.

The Awards consist of two levels: up to six entries will be awarded a Prize which includes a monetary award of EUR 10,000, and up to 25 entries will be awarded a Medal.

Entries may be submitted from all European countries, by anyone closely connected with the entry, as long as the permission from the owner of the building or site, author of the study, or nominee has been obtained prior to submission.

The 2008 deadline for the receipt of applications is 1 October.

<http://www.europanostra.org/>

Awards for Excellence in Recycling

Entries are invited for the 2008 Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management.

There are nine categories in total, including the following:

- High Street Recycling Champion.
- Innovation in Design of a Waste Management Facility.
- Collection Crew of the Year.
- Best Community Recycling Initiative.
- Best Local Authority Recycling Initiative.

Local Authority Recycling Champion.

Applicants may enter more than one category; however, each individual entry can only be submitted for a maximum of two categories. Entry requirements include the submission of a 500-word summary of how the entrant(s) have achieved their success. Entries should be mainly based on the period April 2007 to March 2008.

The closing date for submissions is 3 September 2008.

<http://www.letsrecycle.com/>





Innovative Geography Teaching Grants

The Royal Geographical Society has five grants of up to £800 each to fund innovative geography teaching at secondary level, to enable imaginative, innovative or creative teaching materials and teaching methods to be developed. The aim is to serve both geography pupils and the wider teaching community throughout the UK.

All secondary geography teachers and trainee teachers can apply for a grant. Trainee teachers must be actively undertaking their course. At least one grant will be prioritised for NQT and trainee applicants and a further grant prioritised for applicants who are Members, Fellows or whose Institution is an Educational Member of the Society.

Interested parties are advised that the next application deadline has been announced as **17 October 2008**. <http://www.rgs.org/>

The King's Fund - IMPACT Awards

GlaxoSmithKline's IMPACT Awards are designed to recognise and reward charities that are doing excellent work to improve people's health. They are managed by The King's Fund, a leading independent health charity.

- * The awards are open to registered charities that are at least three years old, working in a health related field in the UK, with a total annual income between £10,000 and £1 million.
- * Nine winners receive £25,000 and an overall winner receives £35,000. Organisations that are highly commended or runners up receive £5,000 or £3,000.
- * You do not need to present a new project. The awards are designed to recognise success and achievements for existing work.
- * You decide how to use the award money.

Guidelines and application form available at:

<<http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/gskimpactawards>>


Closing date for applications: 5pm on 26th September 2008

Grants for the Arts

Arts Council England has issued its new guidance material for applications submitted 20 May onwards. Individuals and organisations (i.e. artists, performers, promoters, arts organisations, local authorities etc) are eligible to apply for funding for time-limited arts-related activities including:

- projects and events;
- research and development;
- education activities;
- bursaries;
- organisational development;

Supported activities should generally last up to three years and should engage people in England in arts activities, or help artists and arts organisations in England to carry out their work. Grants to individuals range from £1,000 to £30,000, and grants to organisations range from £1,000 to £100,000. **Application may be made at any time.** <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/>





Local Authority Support Programme (England)

The Local Authority Support Programme, which offers operational, communications and waste prevention advice, skills training and limited funding for local communications activities to Local Authorities in England, opened to applications this month. A total of £6.5 million is available for 2008/09, of which around £3 million is likely to be allocated for local authority communications activities for the period to March 2009. In order to use its resources in a targeted way, WRAP has identified the following priorities for support:

- Improving the use of existing infrastructure – better capture, better quality, less contamination.

- Introducing food waste collection services.

Waste prevention including food waste prevention.

In addition, the programme is focused on the following three priority areas:

- Recycling.
- Food waste.

Waste prevention.

There is no deadline for submission of requests for support. However, the funding is linked to specific financial years, and WRAP needs to ensure that allocations of resources are made in good time to complete work within the financial year.

Early applications are encouraged from authorities that wish to be considered for communications funding, and WRAP expects to be reaching decisions on these requests from June 2008. Funding allocated for 2008/09 communication activities must be spent by late February 2009. <http://www.wrap.org.uk/>

New £1m Tender Fund launched

Futurebuilders England has launched a new interest-free loan fund for third sector organisations struggling to meet the cost of tendering for public sector contracts. The £1m Tender Fund is intended to help third sector providers win contracts where prohibitive tendering costs would otherwise make it difficult for them to bid.

Jonathan Lewis, Chief Executive of Futurebuilders England said: "We know there are organisations with the skills to bid for and win public sector contracts who simply can't afford the costs involved in preparing competitive bids. Our conversations with the sector tell us that providers often need money to fund tendering related costs such as legal bills, financial expertise, staffing backfill and advice from procurement specialists. We want to be as flexible as possible with the finance we offer and respond to the sector's needs, so we set up this fund specifically to help address this problem. The new Tender Fund will provide interest-free three year loans of between £3,000 and £50,000.

This will help organisations who simply need a smaller sum of money to get them through the tendering stage. We are determined to get as many third sector organisations as possible winning contracts to deliver public services, and we feel this new Fund is one way we can help."

To find out more about the Tender Fund, or to apply for a Tender Fund loan, call 0191 261 5200 or email <mailto:info@futurebuilders-england.org.uk>.



Rural Business Start-up Programme (RBSUP)

RBSUP is a grant programme targeted at new rural enterprises and young businesses where the investment will help to kick-start the business. Grants of up to £10,000 are available and can cover 40% of the costs of a proposal.

Business Link Yorkshire will establish a panel in order to review and approve RBSUP grant applications from rural businesses/pre-starts. Membership of the panel will include representatives from across Yorkshire and Humber from a variety of organisations where the rural agenda is a priority. Business Link Yorkshire will facilitate this panel but will not be involved in evaluating applications or approving funding for businesses.

Business Link Yorkshire is looking for volunteers and nominations for panel members who have:

- a keen interest in the development of the rural economy
- knowledge of the challenges and issues that face rural businesses
- awareness of regional and national policy on rural affairs
- responsibility within their current organisations for rural issues previous experience of participating in a rural panel would be desirable

In general we are looking for members that have a broad knowledge of rural business issues

Please note

The panel will meet once a month. In periods of high demand it may be desirable to arrange additional meetings – if so we would ask for volunteers.

Alternatively the panel members may be split into two groups with meetings held in the am and pm.

Panel members will be asked to review and evaluate applications before the meeting. The meeting will be used to review scores, discuss issues and finally approve/reject applications

The panel will meet in person initially and will consider the option of operating remotely

Meetings will take place in a various locations in Yorkshire and Humber. Business Link will use meeting rooms at its Key Location Centres and will review arrangements regularly. Travel and other expenses for attending panel meetings cannot be reimbursed For further information please contact Phil Gardner on 01226 735413 or p.gardner@businesslinkyorkshire.co.uk.

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) will enable Yorkshire Forward to deliver around £63 million of investment to our region over the next six years.

RBSUP is a grant programme targeted at new rural enterprises and young businesses (less than one year old) where the investment will help to kick-start the business.

Applications from farms that are diversifying and from essential rural retail businesses will also be eligible.

The package of support provided to an individual business must not total more than £10,000 of grant,



RBSUP cont...

Proposals should focus on innovations, quality, sustainability, added value and the development of improved business processes. Support under the RBSUP can only be provided to a limited number of rural businesses types, these include:

- Farm diversifications – limited to applicants who are from a farm holding and who exercise an agricultural activity on the farm at the time of the application (farm workers are not eligible).
 - Tourism sector – for example small scale accommodation, visitor attractions, recreational infrastructure
 - Micro business – limited to rural businesses with less than 10 FTE, and a balance sheet or turnover of less than €2m, at the time of the application.
- Retail businesses – under the Rural Retail Support Scheme (a Yorkshire Forward pilot project) 17 businesses per year will be assisted with an assessment and grant. Businesses that are the only essential retail service in that rural community will be eligible

Funding will be awarded to proposals that contribute to the key investment priorities at both regional and local levels. Proposals should meet the overall aim of the programme, which is to:

“Encourage the start up and diversification of economic activity in key rural sectors”

Proposals will also have to demonstrate one or more of the following key attributes:

- promote innovation;
 - demonstrate good/high growth potential;
 - promote collaborative actions between businesses and through supply chains;
 - deliver multiplier effects, such as wider public ‘goods’ and benefits;
 - provide high quality employment opportunities;
- develop a skilled and adaptable rural workforce.

Small Sparks

Small Sparks is a small grants programme that helps people to do new and exciting things in their community. People have great ideas and mostly they don't cost very much money. They just need a little spark, a little support and then – stand well back!

Small Sparks projects work like this

To run a project you need:

- to match up to £250 funding – it could be with your own time
- an idea
- a plan to involve local people
- to complete the project in 8 weeks
- to keep a record – maybe in photos
- to come and tell people about your project at a celebration.

It's that simple. **Everyone can get involved.**



Small Sparks cont...

If you are a local organisation or a local authority and would like to run a Small Sparks programme, you need to:

- raise a small amount of money – £2500 will fund at least 10 projects. Local companies, public agencies, housing associations, and community groups may have small amounts to contribute
- advertise the programme – organise an event, or produce a flyer
- get people to apply – you don't need forms. People could just turn up and tell you their plans
- discuss the idea – sometimes people need a little nudge and encouragement. Lots of first ideas don't quite work out. That's just life
- give them the money – they sign a receipt and pledge to use it for a Small Sparks project (you may want to discuss where they are going to keep this, or who is going to help them look after it)
- organise a celebration event – this could be all the
- Small Sparks projects together or a celebration of one project in the locality where the project takes place
- tell in Control about the projects.

Interested?

If you are interested, get in touch with in Control. We're putting together a pack you can use to persuade other people to support Small Sparks.

To find out more please contact:

john.gillespie@in-control.org.uk

Join the Small Sparks Community!

If you wish to use the VAB News Bulletin to advertise an event or activity or if you wish to be added or deleted from the mailing list then please contact Naomi Douglas on 01226 242726 or email naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk