

Barnsley Community and Voluntary Network (BCVN) Bulletin February 2010

VAB News

FREE TRAINING

Do you need a little help getting started with computers and the internet? Or do you want to improve the skills of your staff and volunteers? Please help us advertise these free courses to your customers.

Here at Voluntary Action Barnsley we are offering FREE online courses to anyone that feels they need basics in keyboard, mouse, e-mail and even online shopping skills. If you need any help in any of these areas then this could be for you.

Interested? Then drop in on
Tuesday 9th March between 12- 2pm at The Core to find out more
over lunch.

Contact Helen Langley or Sarah Denton for more information on
01226 320100 ext.154

I Love Barnsley

Thank you for everyone's help and generosity with the I Love Barnsley event. We raised **£329.68** which will be more than doubled with the match funding from the Government and with Gift aid.

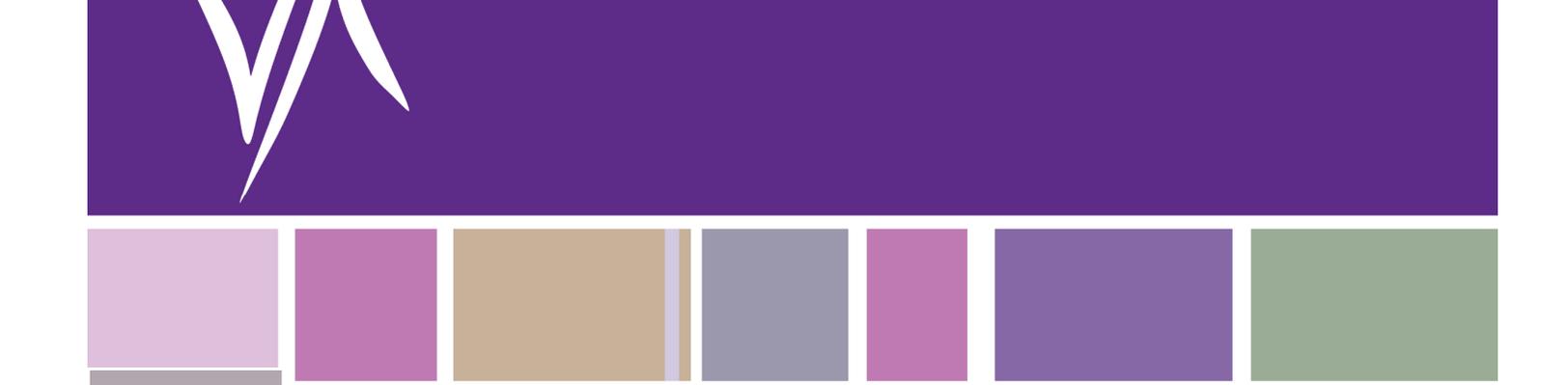
The day was a great success with help and donations from **The Body Shop, Sushi Sushi, Party Animals, Kellys caterers, Pickerings and Barnsley Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Helpline**. Also our volunteers made valentines cards which they sold at the event, Pam Jamieson sold her charm bracelets and Tom Jenkins (winner of our art competition last year) sold some of his designs.

Thank you everyone for all their kind donations.



Voluntary Action Barnsley
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Registered Charity N° 515268
Company Limited by





Volunteers Needed

Help for heroes are now on our database wanting volunteers to help man stalls at various venues and events. The Vteam are also working closely with the Barnsley college student council on student volunteer week. We have a stall promoting volunteering to students and the student council have stalls with help for heroes to raise money for them. The Vteam are now working side by side with the college after a really successful meeting with the vice principal, Angela Foulkes, who is really passionate about getting as many students into volunteering as a means to increasing their skill base.

Contact Dan Wildsmith or Penny Hinchcliffe on 01226 320 104

Barnsley NHS Hospital is looking to recruit more volunteers for the Tea/Coffee bars again.

VAB is seeking small voluntary groups that are new or not currently registered with the Volunteer Centre to offer free advice on all aspects of volunteering and good practice guidance with volunteers in the Barnsley and surrounding area.

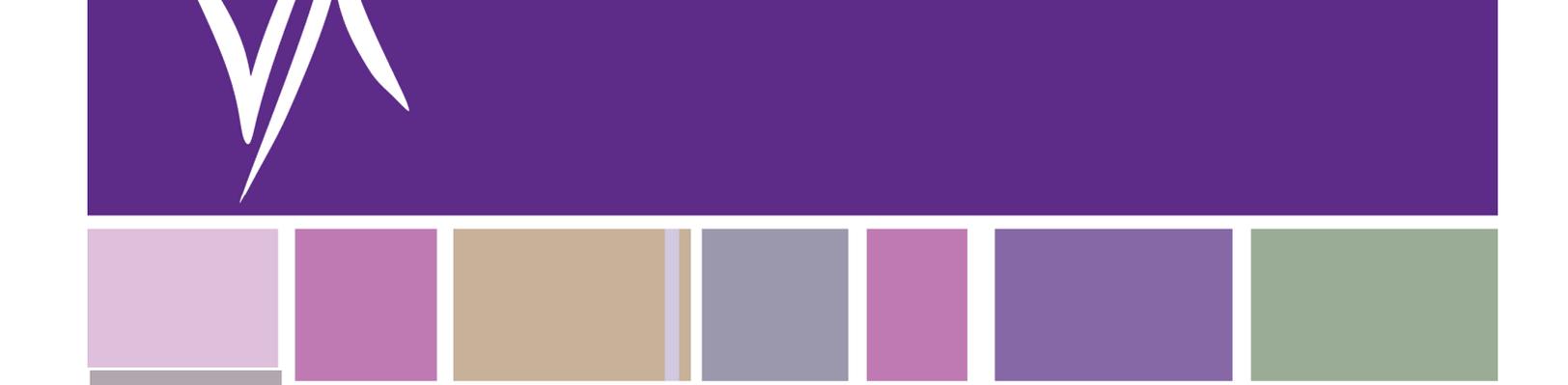
Contact Martin Sugden at VAB on 01226 320105 for more details.

Pre V Group

The aim of the programme is to develop self confidence and esteem and support young people in their transition from school into employment, education or training and to give them an introduction and experience in volunteering.

The students are fundraising for the **Sports Relief** appeal by selling tea, coffee and cakes at **The Core on 18th March 1pm- 3:30pm**. They will also be completing a mile on a rowing machine or exercise bike and selling sports themed quizzes (50p) at The Core.

For more information contact the Vinvolved team or Connexions on: 01226 320104



Safeguarding Self Assessment Tool & Audit – Let us help you to show Safeguarding excellence within your organisation!

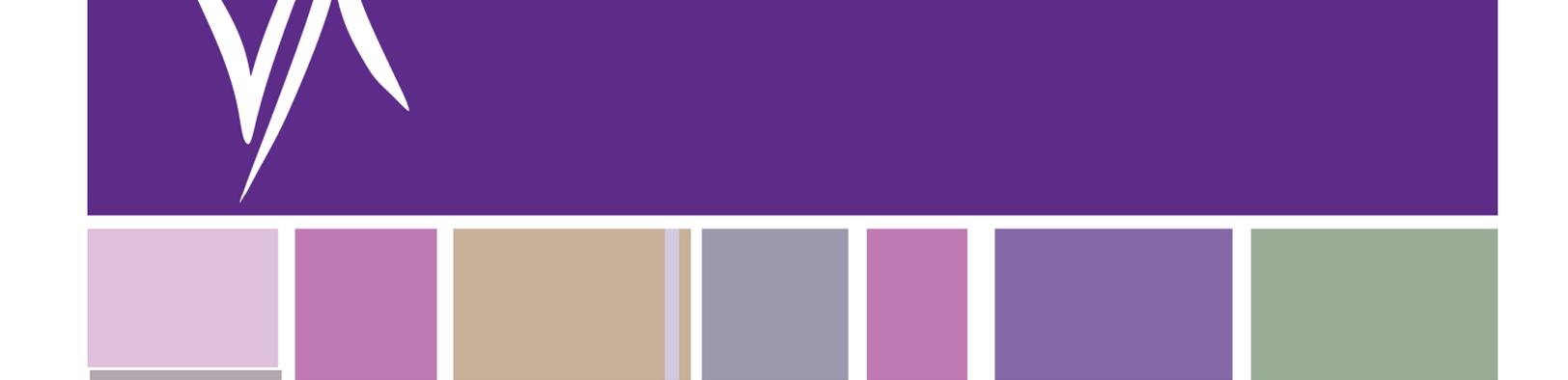
Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults is an essential part of the work that we all do; we all have legal responsibilities to both prevent harm and to act upon any concerns. Most funders and future commissioners will want to see evidence that you are a **'safe'** organisation and that you are fully compliant with the law. In order for you to be able to prove that you are working to recognised base-line standards, Voluntary Action Barnsley and Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board have developed a Self-Assessment tool that you can complete. Once returned your organisation will be supplied with a 'certificate of completion' by the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board. There is also an opportunity for you to get extra support and advice from Voluntary Action Barnsley's Organisation Support Team. This tool will be sent out in the near future. It will be a great way to show future funders your organisation is fully compliant with the Safeguarding Laws.

Barnsley LINK Speech and Language Therapy meeting

**Friday March 05
10.30 am - 1pm at Priory Campus**

As a result work undertaken by the 'Taking Up Issues' sub group, a meeting has been arranged in response to issues raised about accessing Speech and Language Therapists in Barnsley. The event is being held at Priory Campus on 5 March between 10.30am and 1pm in response to several enquiries regarding service provision and suggestions that there may be a lack of speech and language therapists in Barnsley, thus making it difficult for patients to access services.

We hope that the meeting will provide members of the public with information on speech and language therapy services and offer attendees the opportunity to highlight any issues they may have had with speech and language therapy provision in Barnsley. In attendance to talk about their service and to answer any questions will be Deborah McLeod (Clinical Manager for Adult Speech and Language Therapy) and Liz Purt (Manager for Children's Services).



Prior to the meeting, we would like you to send us any questions, enquiries or concerns you may have about these services so that the service can answer as many questions as possible on the day, and provide detailed feedback for attendees. Please note lunch will be provided so if you do have special dietary requirements please let us know.

Please call 01226 320106 and ask for Caroline if you wish to attend/send comments.

[See article on Voluntary Action Barnsley website](#)

HR Update - The new 'Fit Notes'

The Department for Work and Pensions has published guidance for employers on the new "fit note" regime for certifying sickness which will be effective from April 2010.

Under the new system (which will be effective from April 2010) doctors will now be able to certify employees as fit to do some work, providing that certain safeguards are put in place. At the moment doctors are only able to say that someone is unfit to work.

"Statement of fitness for work. A guide for employers" (February 2010) looks at

- ✓ what is changing
- ✓ what is staying the same
- ✓ how this can help the business
- ✓ the basics of fitness for work
- ✓ the new sickness certification form
- ✓ the return to work tick boxes on the form

It also gives a range of "Frequently Asked Questions" covering issues such as

- ✓ what an employer should do if they do not understand the advice on the statement
- ✓ how the new statement affects SSP
- ✓ what to do if an employee disagrees with the measures the employer wants to put in place to support the return to work.

The guidance may be found at:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/fitnote-employer-guide.pdf>



Tell Us Your Story?

**BBC Radio Sheffield & BBC Look North
Would like to hear from you**

Drop in and tell us!

- **What's going on in your local area**
- **What you're involved in and how it's going**
- **What you're concerned about locally**
- **What's making your life a misery**
- **About something or someone worth shouting about**

Our Big Red BBC News Bus will be here;

Where: Barnsley, Peel Square
When: Wednesday 3rd March 2010
Time: 10.00 am until 4.00pm

or call us our newsroom on 0114 267 5440



Events

VAT Workshop
Tuesday 9th March 2010
10:00 -12:00

The Core, County Way, Barnsley, S70 2JW

As we move away from a grant funding culture, local voluntary sector organisations are looking to alternative ways of generating income, often through contracting or trading. With new methods of income generation you may find that your organisation is no longer exempt from VAT registration.

This workshop will:

- Help you to understand the basics of VAT
- Ensure that you know when and why you should register your organisation for VAT
- Explain the effect of registration on charities/ non for profit organisations
- Provide you with information on VAT relief to available to charities
- Give you the opportunity of a 'one to one' advice session with the HM Revenue & Customs VAT Advisor

Presented by: Lynda Wargent, HM Revenue & Customs

For more information or to book your place, please contact:
Angela Hayes on 01226 320116,
e-mail angela.hayes@vabarnsley.org.uk



Invitation to One Barnsley Forum

“Zoning in on the third sector”

To be held on
Wednesday 17th March 2010
At Barnsley Town Hall
(From 4.30)

You are invited to “zone” in on this event which will look at the development of the third sector in Barnsley and how it can be supported better.

The event will be held in the Town Hall and you are invited to take a guided tour around this historic building before the event (please indicate on booking form if you wish to do this).

Light refreshments and access to the Support zone will be available from 4.30pm-5.30pm.

Informative and interactive sessions will take place from 5.30pm - 8.00pm when you will have the opportunity to enter the Funding, Communication or Knowledge zones.

What will happen in the zones?

The Support zone – A range of displays and stands from a number of support services will be available for you to access information and advice for your organisation.

Workshop zones

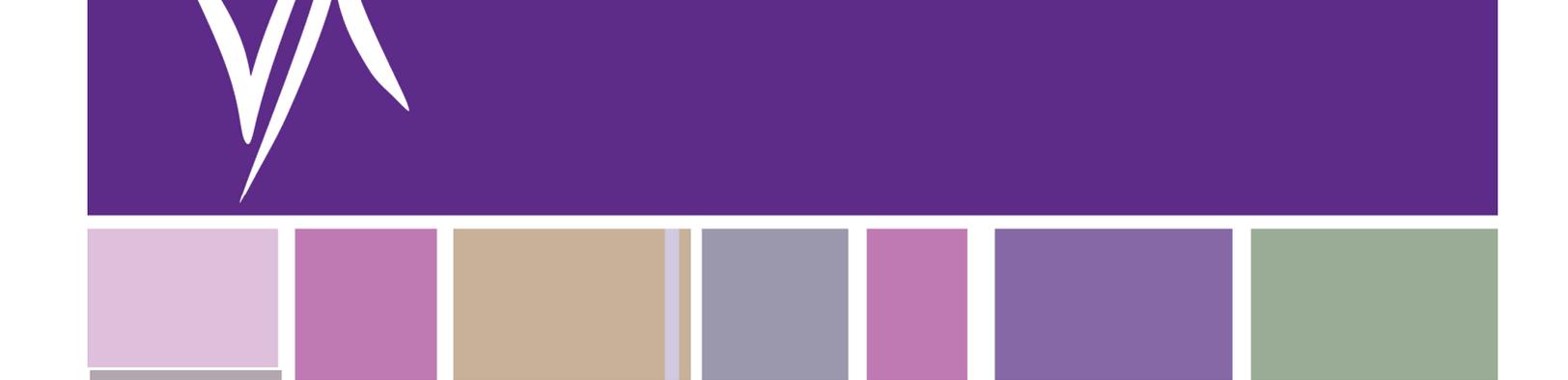
Please indicate on the booking form which zone you would like to attend:

A) The Funding zone – Get up to date background, information and advice on current financial support, from small grants to European funding.

B) The Communications zone – What is the best way to keep you in the loop on key issues? Come along and let us know.

C) The Knowledge zone – What feedback can you give on our plans to work with groups like yours in the future?

Please contact Pam Lee at pamlee@barnsley.gov.uk or One Barnsley Secretariat, Room 161, Barnsley Town Hall, Barnsley, S70 2TA (01226 77 3416) or fax to: 01226 773449



One Barnsley Invitation - Getting your facts straight – research conference

One Barnsley is holding its first research conference - Getting your facts straight - for officers from across the partnership who use evidence to support the work that they do. It is taking place on **Friday 19th March** at the Digital Media Centre, County Way, Barnsley and provides the opportunity to:

- Listen to key note speakers from the world of research and learn from their experiences
- Find out more about local research and information taking place across the partnership as well as what is happening within the region
- Attend workshops on a range of topics from **practical examples** happening within Barnsley to demonstrate on where to access both local and national data.

To book a place on the conference please complete the attached booking form and return to Pam Lee pamlee@barnsley.gov.uk or to One Barnsley Secretariat, PO Box 634, Barnsley S70 9GG

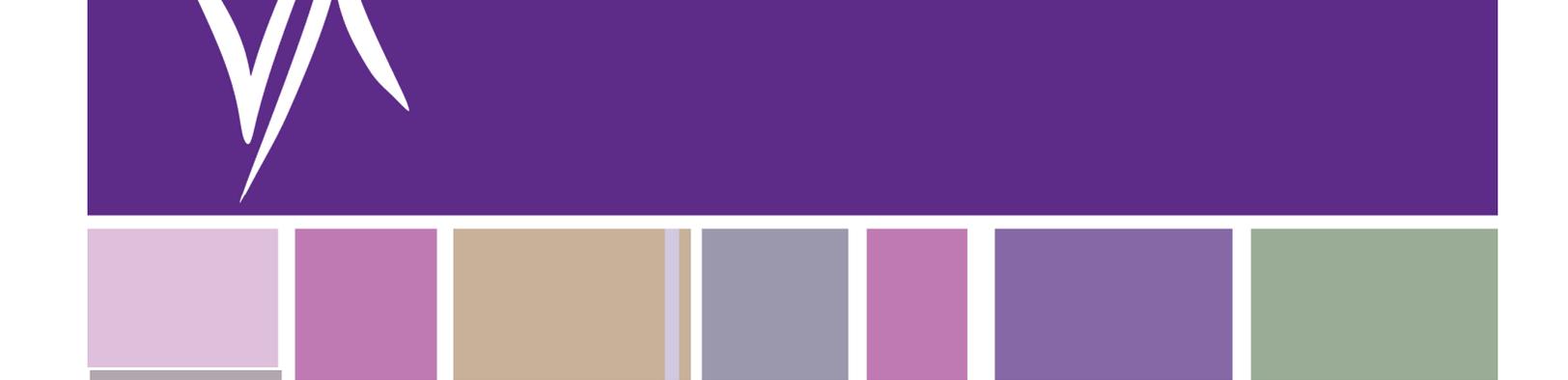
For further information please contact 01226 773311
debbieplatt@barnsley.gov.uk or Diane Tweedie on 01226 773166
dianetweedie@barnsley.gov.uk

2010 European Year to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion (EY2010) awareness raising event for Yorkshire and The Humber

To raise awareness of the European Year to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion (EY2010), CSV (Community Service Volunteers) are putting on an interactive debate and presentation session on

Thursday 11th March from 10am - 2pm

The day will feature a key note speech from the Government Minister for Yorkshire And The Humber, Rosie Winterton, as well as an explanation of the year from the Department of Work and Pensions. The event will be chaired by Dean Pepall, a representative from BBC Radio Sheffield.



The European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010 aims to raise public awareness of the importance of combating poverty and social exclusion for personal, social and economic development. It will aim to give a voice to those who experience poverty and social exclusion.

This event will aim to raise awareness of the causes, prevalence and consequences of poverty and social exclusion in Yorkshire And The Humber, before EY2010 officially launches nationally in March.

This event will be a chance for key organisations and decision makers to hear first hand from the Minister for Yorkshire And The Humber, Rosie Winterton, about what the European Year means to this region. It will also offer the chance for staff of voluntary and community groups, and statutory bodies to share best practice and raise awareness. Poverty affects us all and we must all play a part in tackling it.

The event will take place at The Stables Conference Centre, Doncaster College, High Melton, Doncaster, DN5 7SZ from 10am-2pm. Lunch will be provided.

**Kirsty-Lou Watson | CSV Action Desk Producer, CSV | BBC Radio York, Bootham Row, York, YO30 7BR
Tel: 01904 540350 | Fax: 01904 610937 | E-mail: Kirsty-Lou.Watson@bbc.co.uk |**



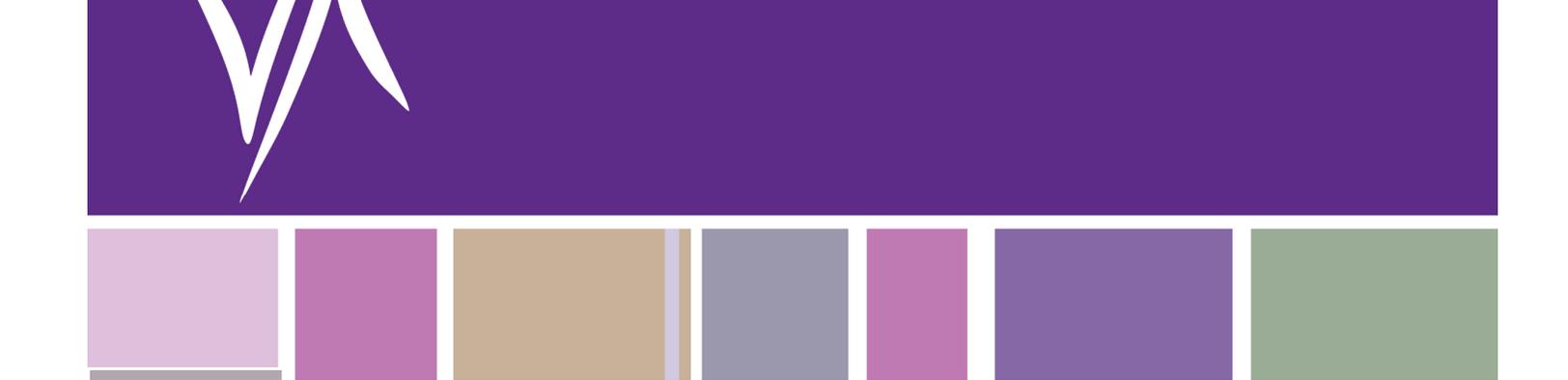
Funding

Last Chance to Apply for EU Learning Grants

Community groups and social enterprises in South Yorkshire have just one month left to apply to a £1.4 million EU fund that supports learning activities for unemployed people.

Community Grants awards up to £12,000 for programmes of learning targeted at workless adults who face barriers or are at risk of exclusion from the labour market. Community Grants is part-funded by the European Union through the European Social Fund (ESF) and is co-financed by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

Local MEP, Linda McAvan, says: "The Community Grants fund can really make a difference to people's lives. With unemployment affecting so many people, the Fund gives adults a vital opportunity to learn the skills necessary



to find work. Community groups and social enterprises play an important role in delivering this type of training and education so I'd urge them to consider making a bid while they can."

The final deadline for applications to Community Grants is March 12. Full details on the scheme, including downloadable application forms and guidance notes, can be found at www.hlc-vol.org/commgrants

For help with an application, contact Niall O'Reilly, Community Grants Development Worker for South Yorkshire, on 0114 2781316 or email communitygrants@hlc-vol.org

Get Some! Community Grants

I am pleased to announce that funding from the Get Some! Community Grants is available for application from Voluntary and Community Organisations in Kendray and Worsbrough Bank End.

The Get Some! Community Grants is one part of the wider Inspiring Communities programme that Barnsley MBC and Kendray and Worsbrough Bank End have been successful in securing. This is a joint initiative from Communities and Local Government, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Cabinet Office. The activities in the Inspiring Communities initiative aims to raise the aspiration and self-esteem of young people aged 11-14 who live in Kendray and Worsbrough Bank End.

The aim of the grants is to improve the ability of local voluntary and community groups to offer a wider range of quality positive activities and to give young people and their families opportunities and experiences that they would not normally be able to access in order to raise their aspiration and self-esteem.

There is a total of £60,000 available for approximately 15 community organisations. It is expected that approximately 100 young people aged 11 - 14 will be supported in accessing new positive activities out of school.

For an application pack, please contact Helen Shaw on 01226 720314 or helenshaw@barnsley.gov.uk The closing date for applications is Tuesday 9th March.



the coalfields
regeneration trust

CRT Bridging the Gap

The Bridging the Gap Programme offers grants of **£500 to £5,000** to voluntary organisations and community groups for projects that make a positive impact in the most deprived coalfield wards. The grant can be for capital or revenue costs and previous applicants may be able to apply if the previous project has been completed and signed off. The application process is simple and there is support available from Judith Patrick throughout the application process. The Trust aims to let groups know the outcome of their application within 12 weeks of submission.

It's worth picking up the phone and talking to Neil Topliss, the Yorkshire Support Officer, on 01709 765573 who will be happy to check the eligibility of your project. Alternatively you can visit our website at www.coalfields-regen.org.uk and download the guidance notes before you give us a ring. We look forward to hearing from you.

**If you would like to contribute to this bulletin please contact
Naomi Douglas on 01226 320107 or e mail
naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk**