

**Voluntary Action Barnsley (VAB)
Third Sector News
For Barnsley's Community and Voluntary Network (BCVN)
Bulletin – June 2008**

Happy Volunteers Week 2008!

VAB News

Remember, Remember!

**Come celebrate with us at the Locke Park Classic
Car Show Sunday June 8th 12- 5pm**



Volunteers Week 2008

Date for your Diary- next BCVN meeting

**The next BCVN meeting will take place on July 15th at the
Metrodome from
09:30 to 12:30**

Healthy Expectations – improving the NHS on your doorstep

Barnsley Primary Care Trust is consulting with the people of Barnsley on plans to improve GP services in Barnsley. This is in the context of new money coming into Barnsley for a new Walk in Centre and three new GP surgeries. Anna Chester and The Campaign Company, are working with the PCT on this important public consultation and are keen to talk to providers of service about the sorts of services they, and the people with whom they work, would like to see and would expect to see both in these new facilities and across Barnsley.

Full agenda to follow

News from our Participation Team

These quarterly events feature guest speakers on topics of interest to Third Sector providers of Health & Social Care Services for Adults. One of the aims of these events is to give those attending the opportunity to meet with our Provider Representatives and find out what is happening at a strategic planning level in Barnsley. The information sessions also offer the opportunity for those attending to bring any issues or concerns to the attention of our Representatives, in order that they can be fed into the relevant decision making Boards.

The next Provider Forum will be on Monday 16 June 2008 from 9.00am to 1.30pm in the Main Hall, Priory Campus, Lundwood, Barnsley.

The programme for this event is as follows:

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 09:00 | Registration/Refreshments |
| 09.20 | Local Medication Policy, Paul Higginbottom, BMBC
Information about changes which are set to take place to the local Medication Policy, together with advice on possible implications for non statutory organisations working with people who have medication needs |
| 09.45 | Natalie Yarrow, Barnsley Arena - Service user involvement |
| 10:00 | Healthy Expectations - Improving the NHS on your doorstep!
Consultation Workshop facilitated by Anna Chester, Campaign Company
A consultation exercise on plans to improve GP services in Barnsley. This is in the context of new money coming into Barnsley for a 'Walk in Centre' and three new GP surgeries. Anna Chester and The Campaign Company are working with the PCT and are keen to talk to providers of services about the sorts of services they, and the people with whom they work, would expect to see - both in the new facilities and across Barnsley. |
| 11:15 | Break/Refreshments |
| 11:30 | Advanced Decisions Toolkit (Mental Capacity Act) - M Stanley, BMBC |
| 12.00 | Meet your BPP Provider Representatives
Your opportunity to keep up to date with developments in Barnsley and to bring any issues or concerns to the attention of the representatives |
| 12:30 | Lunch & Networking |

If you would like to attend this event, please write to us at:

**Participation Team, Voluntary Action Barnsley,
FREEPOST NAT17752, 35 Queens Road, Barnsley, S71 1BR**

Or email: participationteam@vabarnsley.org.uk

Or telephone: **01226 299590**

Supported Volunteering Project

Do you have time on your hands? Would you like to be involved in community activity but lack confidence to do so? Would you like to use your skills, develop new skills and have access to training, then the

**Supported Volunteering Project could be for YOU.
YOU can volunteer. YOU can make a difference.**

Voluntary Action Barnsley's new Supported Volunteering Project aims to assist people with additional support needs to access volunteering opportunities within the voluntary and community sector. The project, funded by Barnsley Development Agency, is particularly aimed at helping people who would like to volunteer, but who may not have considered doing so before, due to lack of confidence, learning or physical disability, mental health issues or unemployment.

The project helps with finding a placement, applications and interview preparation, travel training and on-site induction, as well as ongoing support and regular contact for both the volunteer and the organisation.

The project started in January 2008 and 40 people have already registered. Many are now in placements, such as luncheon clubs, schools, children's centres and at the Hospital and Hospice. To register for the project people can self-refer or someone can refer on their behalf (for example friend, family member or organisation).

Due to increased interest in the project, Volunteers and Support Assistants (to act as mentors for volunteers) are required. New placements from local voluntary and community or not-for-profit organisations are also needed. Comprehensive support and training can be provided for both volunteers and organisations.

To find out more about becoming a Volunteer or a Support Assistant, or to register your volunteering opportunity, call **Janet Thomas at Volunteer Centre Barnsley on 01226 295905.**

Launch of NSPCC Safe Communities Toolkit Tuesday 23 September

Voluntary Action Barnsley would like to invite you to attend the celebration and launch event of the NSPCC Safe Communities Toolkit. **Safe communities: a toolkit to protect children and young people** will help community organisations get the essentials in place to safeguard children they have contact with.

Colleagues are invited to attend a session time of their choice.

09:30— 12:30 Light Lunch Included

13:00— 16:00 Light Lunch Included

18:00—21:00 Refreshments Included

For further information please Contact: Tracey, Angela, Gail or James on 01226 299590 or email participation.team@vabarnsley.org.uk

News from our Advice Team

VAB is collating views from local Third Sector organisations in relation to the Draft ACAS Code of Practice on Discipline & Grievance (see attachment to this e mail or contact Jane Jefferson to get a hard copy). Please can comments and views be sent to Jane by **10th July 2008**

latest, detailing your name, job role, organisation and whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of your organisation. VAB will keep you updated as to the progress of the Code, and the Employment Simplification bill to which it relates.

Contact Jane or Ann on 01226 286841 for more info

Also please note that Ann's portfolio has been successfully accredited as part of the ACAS Certificate in Internal Workplace Mediation. This means that Ann is qualified to deliver mediation to organisations that are experiencing conflict. Contact Ann on the number above to find out more.

Update from the NEETs Strategy Group

As part of our role to keep the Third Sector informed about developments, Doreen Gwilliam, Connexions Co-ordinator for VAB has agreed to produce a quarterly report about the issues that are currently being discussed at this group

The NEETs (not in employment, education or training) Strategy Group has been meeting in Barnsley for some years now. The group is made up of Strategic Heads of Services and Managers of Service Providers. Organisations represented include: Barnsley Education Service, 11-19 Project Team, Barnsley Youth Service, Connexions Service Providers (BMBC, NALD & VAB), ITS & Work based learning providers, Barnsley College, Dearne Valley College, YOT, Teenage Pregnancy Team, Leaving Care Team, BBMEI, Training Pays, Behaviour Support Service, LSC and others

Issues for the first quarter (April – June 08)

- NEETs Statistics in Barnsley – Barnsley has gone from being a hot spot for young people in the NEET category to being one of the lowest in the region and certainly lower than other statistical neighbours. A lot of partnership work has gone on to ensure that young people are able to access the right provision for them. (We have gone from an average of over 12% NEETs to a low of under 8% November 07)
- ESF Bid – Extra Funds coming to Barnsley to work with young people who are NEET. (Currently BMBC are liaising with LSC to agree the contract management details of this fund. More information on this fund will be available if BMBC gain the contract)
- Challenge Fund – LSC have a small pot of money that they are going to use to help with the September Guarantee Process. (September Guarantee ensures that all young people have an offer of a place in Employment, Education or Training) Any organisation who could deliver a specific piece of work that will support young people into a definite placement could apply for this pot. All proposals should be sent to Annie Websdell at the LSC, for contact details please call Doreen Gwilliam at VAB on 249468. Proposals should include:
 - Evidence that the work will lead to the outcomes
 - Who the target group are (Those projects aimed at the most vulnerable will have a higher rating)

- What the project consists of
- Number of young people who will benefit
- Impact of the project – (Part of the impact must be the offer of a place on a suitable course or employment)
- Cost
- NEETs Strategy Action Plan: The NEETS Strategy is currently being updated and agreed. The details of this will be forwarded in the near future.
- Changes to EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance). South Yorkshire are a pilot area for an all electronic application process. This may cause some issues particularly for those young people who do not have access to a personal e-mail address.

If you would like any more details about the work of this group please contact Doreen Gwilliam on 01226 249 468 or e-mail doreen.gwilliam@vabarnsley.org.uk

Local News

Barnsley 

Primary Care Trust

TELL US HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOU BETTER TO LOOK AFTER YOUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

A key priority for Barnsley Primary Care Trust is to support Barnsley residents take a more active role in looking after the health and well being of themselves and their families.

We recognise that different people will need different types of support to do this. We want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to give their views and inform our decision making about the future services we provide.

There are two ways you can have your say. Firstly, you can attend one of the two workshops being held in Barnsley town centre on **Tuesday 17th June, at either 2-4pm or 4.30-6.30pm.**

Places at the workshops are limited, so if you wish to attend please call Christina Brand on 07717 881633 or email at Christina.brand@tribalgrouppct.co.uk to register your interest. A small payment will be made to attendees to reimburse their travel expenses.

Alternatively, you can give us your views by completing our online questionnaire which is open to anyone and can be accessed at www.barnsleypct.nhs.uk/delivering-better-health .

If you would like to receive a paper questionnaire or give your views by phone, please call Christina Brand on 07717 881633 or email at Christina.brand@tribalgrouppct.co.uk

Action Housing & Support is 30!

Action Housing & Support, a charity providing support services to vulnerable and marginalised people across South Yorkshire and the Midlands, has found a novel and creative way to celebrate its 30th birthday.

Over the course of 2008, the organisation's service user involvement groups will be marking the birthday by organising events and activities that celebrate what the charity means to them and the impact that Action has had on their lives.

Each group has found its own way to involve the community with their celebration. The Chesterfield project is organising a public fete in the town's Queens Park on 15 August. The aim of the event is to bring local agencies and community organisations together to show the public all the good work that is being done in the area.

But there'll be fun and games too, with music and performing arts and activities for the kids (both little and big!)

The service user group in Derby is taking a different approach by writing a hard-hitting book of personal experiences, life stories, art and poetry. The book will be distributed throughout the community to help raise funds and raise awareness of the problems that some people face in life – as well as the important support services that are available.

While in Sheffield, the group is engaging directly with other services and agencies by taking part in a community festival. The Broomhall Festival is an annual event that brings people together to celebrate the diversity of the surrounding communities. Action's service users see themselves as part of that community and they will be on hand to tell their stories and get involved.

This is just a small selection of the birthday celebrations being organised by Action's service users. Activities at other projects range from sponsored walks, to parachute jumps, to community allotment projects.

The one thing that binds them all together is the celebration of Action's three decades of support for vulnerable people. The charity is working to help people reintegrate with their communities and these birthday celebrations are a visible symbol of that ambition.

You may well be hearing from your local Action project in the near future, inviting you to take part with their celebrations. We look forward to seeing you soon!

By Brian Wayland, Service User Involvement Officer, Action Housing & Support

T: (01709) 821 251

F: (01709) 374 175

<http://www.actionhousinguk.org>

Experience Barnsley

Please find attached a PDF copy of the new '**Experience Barnsley**' information leaflet and a detailed consultation questionnaire. It would be great if you could circulate these as widely as possible, asking colleagues, friends, members of your society/organisation, family, mailing lists and others to let us know what they think about the project, what the new Museum/Archives Centre should be like and what they could offer. The questionnaire is in word format, which can be filled in and returned to experiencebarnsley@barnsley.gov.uk

The proposed new Museum and Archives Centre at the Town Hall really is an exciting prospect - **but we need people's views, ideas, opinions, memories and, not least, objects to create the museum which Barnsley deserves.** Don't drop your objects off just yet but please let us know what you have that you think should be in a museum of Barnsley's history!

We'll know for definite at the end of the year whether the project has received final approval from the Heritage Lottery Fund but we're very hopeful that it will.

Many thanks in advance for your help and support,
Dr John Tanner Project Officer, Barnsley Museums Service

Sector News

Cohesion Guidance for Funders: Consultation

The Department for Communities and Local Government has issued a consultation: Cohesion Guidance for Funders which looks at how best to facilitate community cohesion through funding.

The consultation follows the 2007 Commission on Integration and Cohesion report, which recommended that funders avoid single group funding – the funding of service delivery by or for “distinct communities” – as this is seen to undermine community cohesion.

Some groups in the third sector have expressed concern that this approach will inhibit the funding of minority groups, as the consultation will define the approach taken by local statutory authorities for both grant aid and the commissioning of services. To provide an informed response, ACEVO (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations) would welcome any comments. Please send these to Catherine Deakin at Catherine.deakin@acevo.org.uk

To find out more click here

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/cohesionfundersconsultation>

Government launches volunteer strategy consultation Survey shows Volunteers have improved mental and physical health

Health Secretary Alan Johnson today launched a FOUR-month consultation to improve support for volunteers in the NHS, social care and third sector, and to encourage more volunteering opportunities. The consultation, '**Towards a strategy to support volunteering in health and social care**' will lead to a national volunteering strategy next year.

Mr Johnson launched the consultation at St Bartholomew's Hospital, in London, after spending the morning working as volunteer in the hospital shop and on the wards.

The aim of the consultation and subsequent strategy is to:

- raise the esteem and profile of volunteering;
- help improve management and support for volunteers;
- support more robust evaluation of the outcomes and benefits of volunteering; and,
- allow more coherent investment to support their involvement.

Alan Johnson said "***Volunteers do an amazing job, they are vital to the lifeblood of the NHS and social care services. Volunteering does not just benefit patients, research has shown that it makes the volunteers happier too. There is a long established tradition of volunteering across the full range of health and social care settings, indeed the NHS grew from the pre-NHS voluntary hospitals.***

"I am pleased to announce the start of a consultation on volunteering. As we prepare to celebrate the NHS's 60th Anniversary, we would like to pay tribute to the volunteers who help shape the service and for us all to recognise, encourage and support volunteering. This document is built on expert insight from stakeholders across the public and third sectors and aims to articulate a clear vision of how volunteering fits into the health, well-being and social care system."

The consultation is being launched at the start of National Volunteering Week and seeks to engage organisations across the public and third sectors in health and social care to debate the potential for volunteering to contribute to improved health and well-being for patients, carers and service users through a deliberation consultation process.

Justin Davis Smith, Chief Executive of Volunteering England said "*Volunteering England is very pleased that the contribution of volunteers to the NHS and wider public sector has been recognised through the development of this national strategy. We are also delighted that the need to support volunteer managers has been acknowledged, as has the understanding that volunteering incurs real costs through admin, training and expenses. Volunteering England believes this new strategy will help Commissioners develop evaluation processes which measure the outcomes and impact of volunteering. This will, in turn, lead to a better understanding of the benefits of volunteering on their wider strategic objectives, such as reducing health inequalities.*"

The consultation closes on 30th September 2008. The final strategy and implementation plan will be published in 2009.

Recruitment Advertising

Please advertise all vacancies on www.goodmoves.org.uk the UK third sector recruitment site owned by NAVCA, The Big Issue, SCVO and WCVA. To place an ad please contact Michelle.emerson@navca.org.uk phone 0114 289 3957

Goodmoves is now getting 22,000 hits every month. NAVCA has used it to recruit recently.

Small businesses to get free access to public sector contracts

DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM News Release (2008/86) issued by The Government News Network on 30 April 2008

A free trial has started to provide small and medium sized businesses with access to thousands of public sector contract opportunities. From 1 May until 31 July 2008, the <http://www.supply2.gov.uk> website will allow new registrants to gain free access to public sector contracts valued under £100,000 for the UK and Northern Ireland.

The free trial is part of the Department for Business's Enterprise Strategy which was released in March, which outlined new measures to increase the amount of government business that is won by small firms. Business Minister Shriti Vadera said "*Small and medium sized businesses need our support to expand. Many smaller businesses are more innovative, have lower costs and present better value for taxpayers than larger firms. Introducing Britain's small firms to Government procurement contracts online will provide opportunities to grow that they would not have otherwise found. Encouraging more small businesses to register for opportunities will mean buyers benefit from increased competition and access to a wider range of suppliers.*"

John Wright, Federation of Small Businesses National Chairman said "The announcement of a free trial for small businesses to get access to public sector contracts is very welcome news. We supported the Supply2 initiative from the outset and we hope that this free trial period will encourage more small businesses to try their hand at delivering goods and services to the public sector. But local authorities and government departments must play their part too by making sure that more small business opportunities are advertised on Supply2. Opening up public sector procurement to the UK's 4.5 million small businesses can and should eradicate the false assumption that biggest is always best."

More than 3,000 new contracts are available on <http://www.supply2.gov.uk> each month. The three month free trial, available to businesses registering for the first time, will provide access to contracts throughout the UK rather than in a nominated local area.

The Enterprise Strategy featured a range of measures to boost small firms competing for public procurement. An advisory committee, headed by Anne Glover, will look at ways to reduce barriers that small businesses face when competing for public sector contracts and the practicality of setting a goal for them to win 30 per cent of public sector business within five years.

The Strategy also included an announcement that the rules for government procurement will be changed to allow companies, particularly small firms, to use invoice financing to compete for public contracts.

Consultation: Human rights inquiry

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission is inquiring about establishing how public authorities, such as hospitals, schools or local and national government offices, make sure they treat people well and in line with legal requirements under the Human Rights Act. Although the Human Rights Act directly applies to public authorities, we are also interested in looking at private and voluntary organisations that carry out public functions such as private or voluntary care homes financed by public bodies.

They need you to help them build up an accurate picture of how well things are working now so that they can recommend improvements for the future. The inquiry is currently covering England and Wales but they are discussing options for similar or parallel work to be carried out in Scotland with the newly formed Scottish Human Rights Commission.

The consultation closes 21 June 2008. For more information and to take part visit:
<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/projects/humanrightsinquiry/Pages/Gatheringevidence.aspx>

Deadline for next bulletin is Friday 20th June

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 785564 or email naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk