

# vab news

Supporting the Barnsley Community and Voluntary Network

Welcome to the new look VAB news and our new logo!

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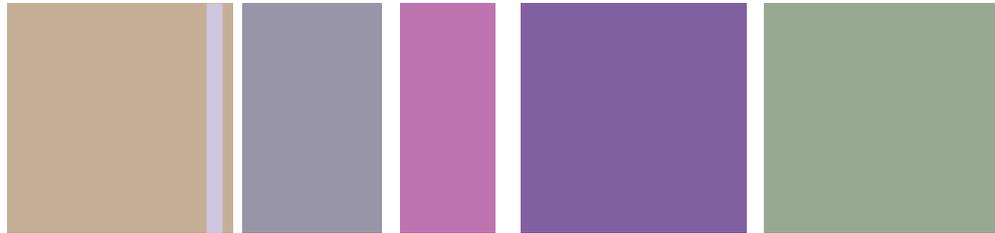
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## VOLUNTEERS WEEK EVENT Sunday June 8th Locke Park



On Sunday June 8th Friends of Locke Park kindly allocated some space at the Classic Car Show to celebrate volunteering. Almost 20 voluntary and community groups had stands at the event and VAB was there handing out Volunteers Week goodies.

Volunteers Week (1-7 June) is the UK's annual celebration of the work volunteers do. During the week events are held across the country to recognise, reward and recruit volunteers. Volunteers Week began in 1985.

Initially it was run on a local level but in order to raise greater awareness of the importance of volunteers, the National Centre for Volunteering took the lead in promoting the Week.

Each year more and more organisations get involved in the week and participants take part in various events throughout the UK. These range from award presentations to setting up information booths or sponsored walks and team challenge events with

everything in between!

Beryl Cooper, Volunteer Centre Manager said "Volunteers Week Celebrations at The Classic Car Show event at Locke Park were a great success. We managed to raise the profile of volunteers and voluntary groups within Barnsley and the good work they do. It was a fantastic day, lovely weather and good fun".

Why volunteer? Please go to page 2 to find out more.

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Eddie Street

# Introduction

VAB's Business Development Manager: Eddie Street

Welcome to VAB's new look newsletter.

Page 3 highlights the work that VAB, together with Barnsley Council, has undertaken to create an online directory of voluntary and community groups operating within the borough boundaries. This development has been in response to the introduction of individual budgets for people with care requirements. The main idea behind individual budgets is to put the person who is supported, or given services, in control of deciding what support or services they get.

## What do they do?

### Individual budgets:

- Give people a clear, up-front idea about how much money there is for their support.
- Make assessment quicker and easier which means people have to give out information fewer times.
- Bring together different kinds of support or funding from more than one agency.
- Let people use the money in a way that best suits their own needs and situation.
- Have support to plan what they want and to organise it, from a broker or advocate, family or friends, as the individual wants.
- Do not cost the Local Authority any more.

## So why is this important to voluntary and community groups in Barnsley?

Because increasingly people who already control individual budgets are using their buying power to access services from voluntary organisations and community based groups. VAB want budget holders to be able to find out about the services and facilities you offer, and we want you to be able to boost your income through greater take up of what you offer. If you have internet access go to

[www.individualbudgets.csip.org.uk/dynamic/dohpage8.jsp](http://www.individualbudgets.csip.org.uk/dynamic/dohpage8.jsp)

to read the experiences of people currently controlling their own budgets.

The directory will also be used by council departments other than social services as they seek out, and hopefully support, what is out there in the wider community.

The VAB database has in excess of 600 entries related to groups in Barnsley, but currently only 200 are listed on the online directory. Go to

[www.vabarnsley.org.uk/register](http://www.vabarnsley.org.uk/register)

and make sure you get noticed.

## WHY VOLUNTEER?

Volunteering is popular with young and old alike. 53% of people aged 16-19 have volunteered with a club or organisation at least once in the last 12 months, whilst 78% have given unpaid help on an informal basis. 28% of over 75s have volunteered at least once in the last year, while 46% have given unpaid help on an informal basis.

### *2005 DCLG Citizenship Survey*

Volunteering is good for you! 63% of 25-34 year olds and 62% of over 65s say that volunteering helps them feel less stressed, whilst 71% of volunteers who offer their professional skills and experience say volunteering helps combat depression. Nearly half of all volunteers believe volunteering has improved their physical health and fitness.

### *2004 ICM Research findings, commissioned for CSV (Community Service Volunteers) and Barclays*

Volunteering helps you lead a healthier life. 22% of 18-24 year olds say volunteering helps them cut down on alcohol and 30% say volunteering helps them smoke less.

### *2004, ICM Research findings, commissioned for CSV and Barclays*

To find out more about volunteering opportunities in Barnsley, please contact our Volunteer Centre on 01226 295905



Angela Jones

## GETTING TO KNOW ...

### Angela Jones: Buildings Manager

How long have you worked for us Angela?

Since 1989 – although I did work for VAB when it was known as the Barnsley District Council for Voluntary Service back in the early '80s, when I was the first Project Manager for the Disabled Information & Advice Line (DIAL).

What does your job involve?

Currently, most of my time is taken up with preparing for The Core, the new purpose built, third sector facility that is being managed by VAB. I spend a lot of time going over plans, talking to various people on how The Core will work and chasing up information needed to move it along efficiently and effectively. I also meet potential tenants and customers. This means I get to see people face to face, in meetings and at a variety of presentations.

What is the best thing about working or volunteering for VAB?

The people (both within VAB and the ones I meet along the way). They are a very special, dedicated lot and make working here a joy and a privilege.

What do you think would make a difference in making Barnsley a better place to live?

I believe that The Core will certainly make a difference to Barnsley (well I would say that wouldn't I?). It will provide a great opportunity for a wide range of organisations to meet, work and network, for the benefit of the people they serve. It will encourage people to come in and find out more about the valuable work going on in Barnsley by groups of people who are more used to working in, shall we say, less than adequate premises. The Core will be an all inclusive building and will prove to the rest of the town (and beyond) that this sector is serious about what it does and intends to move forward and be a significant part of the larger vision for Barnsley.

# VAB News

## Online Directory – Get Online!

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

**Read on to find out how our new online directory could help your group!**

All voluntary and community groups who receive this newsletter should have received info some time ago about the new online directory that is being developed on the VAB website.

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](http://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!

The site will be accessed by a variety of people including the general public who may be looking for activities in your area.

It will also be used by statutory agencies. This could be of benefit to your group, as Barnsley has been a pilot area for the individual budgets scheme. This means that people who receive statutory care or services are now in control of deciding their own care and managing their own allowance. Therefore, it could mean that someone in your area would like to pay to attend your group or activity.

# THE CORE UPDATE



Thank you to those of you who attended our information day on 14th May.

If you would like to see a copy of our brochure or the meeting room price list, please go to:

[www.vabarnsley.org.uk/the-core.php](http://www.vabarnsley.org.uk/the-core.php)

Alternatively, if you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss your future accommodation needs please contact either Angela Jones or Naomi Douglas on 01226 242726.

Site progress is going well and is on schedule. The biomass boiler has been installed and the topping out ceremony took place on Friday 11th April. The practice of 'topping out' a new building can be traced to the ancient Scandinavian religious practice of placing a tree on the top of a new building, to appease the tree dwelling spirits of ancestors that had been displaced. The practice migrated to England with Scandinavian invaders and took root there.



Katie Russell from Barnsley Sexual Abuse & Rape Crisis Helpline kindly agreed to speak at the event to talk about her experiences of being a tenant with VAB over the last 20 years.

**Barnsley Sexual Abuse & Rape Crisis Helpline, or BSARCH, is currently celebrating its twentieth year of supporting local people whose lives have been affected by sexual violence. For the last 17 of those 20 years, BSARCH has been a tenant of Voluntary Action Barnsley.**

From the VAB buildings on Queens Road, BSARCH provides a range of services. We have a helpline service, currently open Monday to Thursday evenings from 6 pm until 8 pm, with a 24 hour answer phone and call backs on request; we provide a free, person centred face to face counselling service; and, since December 2006, we've employed an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor, who offers practical support, outreach and advocacy, and works closely with survivors of sexual violence throughout the Criminal Justice process, if they choose to report to the Police.

Our core service user group is women, aged 16 and over, who've experienced any form of sexual violence at any time in their lives, but we also support people who are caring for or working with a survivor of sexual violence. Our definition of sexual violence includes rape, sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, sex trafficking and sexual exploitation, although this list is not exhaustive. We offer male survivors, and young survivors under the age of 16, listening, support and information over our helpline, but for face to face work we refer or signpost these service users to more specific services.

Because a key part of our mission is to raise awareness

and understanding of sexual violence throughout society, we also deliver presentations and training workshops to other agencies and professionals, we attend community events and we try to involve ourselves as much as possible in a range of multi agency networks and forums across Barnsley, South Yorkshire and the region as a whole.

Although we're now the largest we've ever been, BSARCH is still a relatively small organisation, with a team of 2 full time and 2 part time members of staff and around 25 volunteers. Like many voluntary and community groups, we've also tended to rely on short term, grant based funding for our survival.

But despite our size, and even at times in the past when we've been forced to manage on a shoestring budget, we've always enjoyed the full support of VAB and always been made to feel like valued tenants.

**Perhaps most importantly, VAB has shown us over the years that they understand that groups within the voluntary and community sector in Barnsley have diverse needs, that one size doesn't necessarily fit all when it comes to their tenants.**

Subsequently, they appreciate the importance of flexibility to groups like BSARCH.

So for example, VAB has always respected our choice, as a gender specific service provider, to keep our rooms on Queens Road as a women only safe space. Similarly, VAB Reception staff and others, who've sometimes come into contact with our often vulnerable or anxious service users, have always shown a high level of discretion and sensitivity. And in 2005, when

BSARCH decided that, despite the cosiness of our attic rooms at number 33, we also wanted to be able to offer a more accessible space for our service users, VAB was quick to help us find a solution, in the form of an additional ground floor room at 23 Queens Road. Because principles of respect and empowerment underpin the way that BSARCH works with its service users, we couldn't have enjoyed such a long collaboration with an organisation that didn't treat us in the same way.

Since work began on The Core, VAB has continued to build on its relationship with BSARCH, by



including us in its Operations Group meetings, and by listening and responding to what we say about the needs of our volunteers, staff and service users. We're excited to be a part of this project and we're very much looking forward to moving into what we hope will be a hub for community and voluntary sector activity in Barnsley. Although we'll inevitably miss our attic, we're confident that The Core will help us to raise our local profile, to work more closely with other groups, to enjoy high quality facilities and, most importantly, to make ourselves more accessible to our service users.

**BSARCH can be contacted on 01226 298560.**

## Barnsley Youngsters Get Shovelling on World Environment Day

Our Young Volunteers Agency (YVA) and some young volunteers from the Oasis Environmental Group, accompanied by Barnsley Youth Service staff and BMBC Rangers, worked in partnership on World Environment Day (5th June), on a much needed environmental project to mark the day.

Everyone worked hard to clear vegetation and foliage along part of the old Railway Path on the border of New Lodge/Mapplewell in order to improve the drainage system for surface water, which often collects on the path during heavy rainfall.

They were delighted to be joined by Barnsley's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Len Picken, who 'mucked in' by grabbing a shovel and helping to clear some of the vegetation, which has built up over the years.

This project also marked National Volunteers' Week and the start of the 'V' National Youth Volunteering Programme in Barnsley. Wally Smith from YVA said "It was great to see everyone coming together with a common goal – to improve the access route for Barnsley people, on a much used public right of way". He added, "Councillor Picken was a typical miner – you couldn't get the shovel out of his hand!"

Sean Gibbons, 'V' Youth Volunteer Development Manager said "Everyone worked really hard and it was very satisfying to see the surface water draining away after just a few hours work. The young volunteers involved are a real credit to Barnsley".

The project will continue with the Oasis group and other young volunteers doing more vegetation clearance and tree lopping, which will be fundamental to the long term plans for this path. There is a desire to



make the path a multi-access route for walkers, cyclists and horse riders and this will hopefully encourage more people to use the path as a greener access route directly into the town centre.

If anyone would like to be part of this project, contact Sean Gibbons or Penny Hinchcliffe ('V' Youth Volunteer Adviser) on 01226 249468.

## Volunteer Case Study

### Shaun's Story ...

**I came to the Volunteer Centre in 1998. At the time I was working as a painter and decorator but I felt I wanted to put something back into the community.**

A friend of mine suggested going to the Volunteer Centre at VAB. I saw a lady called Betty who was actually a volunteer herself at the Centre. In fact Betty is still volunteering at VAB today! I wasn't sure what I wanted to do but we explored all the different options. I did express an interest in working with young people. That's when Betty suggested Barnsley Alcohol & Drug Advisory Service (BADAS), which is a free and confidential service for anyone concerned about their own or someone else's drug or alcohol use. The team includes counsellors, generic drug and alcohol workers, social workers and nurses. BADAS is based in Barnsley's town centre and provides a variety of services, including counselling and needle exchange.

I did my Cognitive Behaviour training with BADAS, which you had to have in order to work or volunteer with vulnerable young people. To be honest I didn't know much about drugs, only what I'd read in the paper! When I started the training I had no idea what to expect and I did wonder 'what am I doing here?'. The course was great however and I did really well on it. After 12 months I started to volunteer with BADAS.

**Payment wise I have never been so well paid but it didn't involve a penny!**

I met new people, professionals and users. I developed personally and learnt new skills. It really gave me confidence, as I had previously thought I wasn't good enough to do it. I learnt how to see things from other people's perspectives. I continued to volunteer for 2 years and realised that this was what I wanted to do as a job. I applied for a job with Barnsley Substance Misuse team, working with people who had drug treatment testing orders in detox units and clinics. It gave me great range of experience, working in partnership with health professionals.

I then applied for a job back at BADAS as an Open Access Worker and I have been with them now since 2001. I am the clients' first point of contact when they come to us. I work with people who are suicidal, have mental health issues and physical health problems. You have to think on your feet I can tell you! I am so proud to be part of BADAS and they have helped me develop both professionally and personally. I'm still enjoying it and I am really thankful to VAB for opening that door. I now signpost the people I work with to VAB and tell them my story!

[Find out more about being a Support Assistant in 'Amanda's Story'](#) ►►



Shaun with Betty at the Volunteer Centre 10 years on!

**Do you have time on your hands? Would you like to be involved in community activity but lack the confidence to do so? Would you like to use your skills, develop new skills and have access to training? If so, 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 the Working Skills Board, 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 and children's centres, as well as the Hospital and Hospice. To register for the project people can self refer or someone can refer on their behalf (e.g. a friend, family member or organisation).

Due to increased interest in the project, Volunteers and Support Assistants are required, to act as mentors for volunteers. 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.

# YOU CAN VOLUNTEER

## Support Assistant Case Study

### Amanda's Story ...

**Amanda came to see Janet at the Volunteer Centre in March 2008 and she is now in employment.**

"I am a single mother of 4 grown up boys, one of whom (Sam) is profoundly deaf and has a multitude of problems such as mental health issues and learning disabilities. I was working in a sandwich shop and I really wasn't happy - I wanted more from life. I wanted to change career and because of my experiences with Sam, I really wanted to work with people with mental health issues.

**“ However, all the life experience in the world didn't mean anything without qualifications, so I could never even get an interview. ”**

A friend of mine suggested contacting VAB and getting a foot in the door through volunteering. I was really nervous about calling them because I thought without any qualifications I wouldn't get in – how wrong could I be!

Janet enrolled me on the supported volunteering project and I started on the course and met the rest of the group. They were a mixed bunch but a really friendly and lovely lot. The things I have learnt! It's been fantastic! I have also been able to share my first hand experiences with the others, so I felt that I was contributing too. I was worried at first because I thought I would open my mouth and they would run a mile!

I feel that it has helped me be a better parent and an even better carer. I learnt to look at the bigger picture instead of just my side. I've listened and learned from talks we have had and to be honest it's opened up a whole new way of life for me. It's given me a huge confidence boost and I'm now the proud owner of certificates including my Mental Capacity Act Training Certificate. I also have more knowledge and I even have a new job too!

I took a step I was too frightened to take in the past and applied for this job and I now work as a support assistant in a care unit with people who have learning and physical disabilities and mental health problems.



Amanda with Beryl and Janet, from the Volunteer Centre at VAB

**“ I went to the interview determined that I would get the job. ”**

The volunteering and certificates helped give me that confidence. 8 people were interviewed for it and I got it! One day I hope to be working in mental health on the wards – I can do it!

Volunteering gave me that. All it took was one phone call and I'm so glad I did. My boys are all so proud of me and I am proud of myself too! It's a great place to start no matter what you think you are or what you think you're not. Sam was 16 when he was diagnosed with his problems and I can now work with other parents who aren't as vocal as me and help them get the support they need. I know how lonely mental health can be to live with – not just for the sufferer but for the family too.

It's opened doors I never thought would open – not for me anyway, a single parent of four! You don't need a folder full of qualifications - just time, patience and a sense of humour. What's your reward? A smile and sense of pride! I thought I would be making sandwiches forever – but now I'm unstoppable!”

Janet Thomas, Supported Volunteer Coordinator, said “Amanda has been a dedicated volunteer who has contributed to the group with enthusiasm. She is a great support assistant and I'm so pleased that we have played a part in her achieving the job she wanted”.

**Due to the success of the project so far, we are now recruiting our second group of support assistants. If you are interested in being part of this new exciting project:**

**Call Janet Thomas at the Volunteer Centre Barnsley on 01226 295905.**

# ... YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Healthy Expectations – Improving the NHS on Your Doorstep. Become a Community Health Champion

**Local people are set to benefit from significant improvements in health services - with 3 new GP practices in local areas and a new GP led Health Centre in the town!**

Improvements will see increased access, extended opening hours, new services closer to where people live and more doctors. Over the coming weeks we'll be talking to local people about the services they'd like to see in these new GP practices and in the new GP led Health Centre. You could help!

### **We are looking for Community Health Champions!**

Are you a natural communicator? Do you listen to the views of others with empathy and compassion? Are you known for your common sense approach or for getting others more involved? Have you got the skills to influence those making decisions?

By becoming a 'Community Health Champion' you could help local people get more involved in decisions about changes to local NHS services in your area. You could also find yourself acting as a source of accurate information, letting others know what is planned for their local GP service or the new Health Centre in the town.

We are looking for people with excellent communication skills who are happy for others to contact them for information or support. Naturally, you'll be interested in or have experience of using local health services. You may already run a local fitness class or community group, you might be involved in your church or social club or you may simply be ready to take on a new challenge. Either way you'll have what it takes to act as a link between your community and the NHS in Barnsley.

You should be willing to give around an hour a week over 12 weeks this summer. This can be negotiated to take in any holidays or existing commitments you may have.

So, if you live or work in Barnsley and would like to work with others to help improve local NHS services we want to hear from you! **For more information please contact Joanne Wilson on 0114 282 3530 or [jwilson@thecampaigncompany.co.uk](mailto:jwilson@thecampaigncompany.co.uk)**

## National Breastfeeding Awareness Week (NBAW) 12–16th May 2008

**'Breastfeeding: every day makes a difference to your baby!' was this year's strap line for the Department Of Health.**

On Thursday, 15th May the VAB Link Workers organised an event at the Metrodome for peer supporters and mums who attend their groups, celebrating the fantastic work achieved by peer supporters. Workshops included; Baby Weaning, Starting Solids and Nutrition, Becoming a La Leche League Leader, Peer Support Training Programme and Volunteer Opportunities After Training.

The peer support groups from across the borough held coffee mornings inviting new mums and mums to be to join their groups; some attended baby clinics to promote peer support and provide information to breastfeeding mums.

## M.O.M.S BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP

### Do You Want to Become a Peer Support Volunteer?

Find out more in Angie's story ...

**My name is Angie Lee. I'm mum to 22 month old Angus James and I work part time at Sheffield City Council. This is my first volunteer role.**

#### What is your volunteering role?

I am a breastfeeding peer supporter and Chair of MOMS at Kings Oak. My role involves giving information and support to breastfeeding mums and mums to be, by providing encouragement through the tough times sometimes experienced during breastfeeding.

Most of the support I give is to mums who drop into the group's weekly coffee morning. I have however also given information and support to family members, friends and even strangers over a latte when I've been in town and at Meadowhall!

#### How did you get involved?

I had decided before my baby was born that I would try to breastfeed. We had a few set backs in the hospital though as Angus had a few minor health problems when he was born. Because he did not feed properly his health was suffering so the hospital staff suggested that I should give him a formula feed 'top up'. I did not particularly enjoy my early breastfeeding experience.

When Angus was about 10 weeks old I found myself in need of support. Because of my experience in the hospital I was reluctant to seek their

The Breastfeeding Link Workers kicked started NBAW by having a stand in the foyer of Barnsley College promoting breastfeeding and our services. We were asking students if they thought breastfeeding should be allowed in public and asked them to make comments if they wished. 108 students were consulted.

### Should breastfeeding be allowed in public?

91 said 'Yes', 10 said 'No' and 7 were 'undecided'.

### Comments made were extremely positive and encouraging:

'Yes, everyone has to eat' (Male 16 - 19 years);



'Yes, breastfeeding is a natural thing and should be encouraged rather than shunned because of people's snobbishness' (Male 20 - 24 years).

The Breastfeeding Link Worker Team has expanded and we have 2 new members of the team - they are Suzi Dunn and Pearl Mahdavi. **The team can be contacted at [bfink@vabarnsley.org.uk](mailto:bfink@vabarnsley.org.uk) or you can call 01226 242726.**



help, however, my Health Visitor put me in touch with the breastfeeding link team at VAB. I spoke to Ange Beaumont who helped put my mind at ease and assured me that I wasn't being neurotic. It turned out that the worries I had were those that most breastfeeding mums experienced at some stage - 'my baby is feeding all the time, what should I do?', 'I can't measure how much milk he's getting, how do I know he is getting enough?', 'What time of day should I try and express?' ... and so on.

When I phoned Ange I was at my wits' end and I was about to turn to the bottle - of formula that is! - thinking that I had 'failed' Angus. But her support gave me the boost I needed to continue breastfeeding and I happily and successfully nursed my baby until he was 10 months old.

A few months later, the Link Workers were running the first La Leche League training course in Wombwell. I was really interested in the subject but I also realised that the training would enable me to give other mums the kind of support I had received from Ange. If I could help just one mum in the same way Ange had helped me that would make me so happy.

Once we finished the training course the group had to decide how they would like to use their newly acquired skills. This is when we set up our weekly coffee morning at the local Children's Centre.

### How has this benefited you?

I have benefited immensely from doing the training. Initially it gave me the information I needed when I was breastfeeding Angus and when he was being weaned. It has also given me the information that I think I should have had before Angus was born so I will have the confidence to make the right decisions from the outset for our next baby.

I have represented the group at Barnsley Town Hall and also at the Wombwell and Darfield Area Forum. As a result the group received a set up grant from the Wombwell and Darfield Area Forum! This also

reintroduced me to formal meetings with people in a more professional environment and helped prepare me for my return to work.

The coffee morning is a very sociable and it gives me and Angus chance to meet new people and support them through tough times. I know it sounds like a cliché but being able to help people is really rewarding and gives me a real boost. I made some great friends from the experience. I think breastfeeding peer support is great. It helps the mums who seek our support because they know that we have been through what they are experiencing and survived!

**M.O.M.S. (Mum's Own Milk Support) is Wombwell's breastfeeding support group.**

The coffee morning takes place every Wednesday, from 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. at Kings Oak Children's Centre, Bondfield Close, Wombwell.

The group is free but the Children's Centre asks for donations of 10 pence for a cuppa.

Contact details:

Tel: 01226 273240  
 Website: [www.kingsoakchildrenscentre.piczo.com](http://www.kingsoakchildrenscentre.piczo.com)  
 Email: [momsbreastfeedingsupport@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:momsbreastfeedingsupport@hotmail.co.uk)

To find out about groups in other areas please contact the VAB Link Workers on 01226 242726.

## ARE YOU INFORMED?

VAB's Advice Team are updating and rebranding their folders 'Informed' and 'Informed 2 Planning'. The team are always interested in finding out the advice needs of local organisations and what information they would like to see featured in the folders.

### Informed

- Setting Up
- Constitutions
- Running the Organisation
- Employing a Worker
- Recruiting Staff
- Contract of Employment Termination and Dismissal
- Charities and Contracting for Services
- Fundraising and Trading
- In the Pipeline
- Useful Contacts

### Informed 2 – Planning

- Explaining About Your Organisation
- The Future – Creating a Vision and Strategy
- Marketing
- Funding and Income Generation
- Risk Analysis
- Useful Contact Details

If there are other key areas you would like to see in the folders, or you would like to provide feedback regarding the current areas, please contact the staff below:

**Contact either Jane Jefferson or Ann Moffatt on 01226 286841**

# Local News

## Tribute to Denis Owen

Ex-Chair of VAB, Denis Owen, has died at the age of 75. He was totally dedicated to education, training and developing local communities. Penny Stanley, Chief Executive of VAB said "Denis was a loyal, influential and well regarded member of the VAB Board for many years. His energy, intellectual abilities and in depth understanding of the sector, and its potential, made him a valuable asset to VAB and a force to be reckoned with in the Borough. His knowledge and presence is irreplaceable and he will be sadly missed".

Denis had the reputation of being an innovative and passionate teacher and was appointed headteacher at Thurnscoe Comprehensive School in 1974, a post he held until 1991.

Education was not high in people's priorities in Thurnscoe – it was assumed that most young men would leave school at the earliest opportunity and follow their fathers down the pit. Denis did something which was rare among headteachers in 1974 and is even rarer now – he went to live within the community. This gave him immediate experience and understanding of the problems faced by his pupils, particularly when, in the 1980s, the collieries began to close. This potentially devastating loss of future employment motivated Denis to support the miners' strike publicly and to march with them when they returned to work.

He was extraordinarily active as a head and worked closely with the local authority, collaborating over the introduction of many new educational and managerial initiatives. He was awarded the OBE for services to education in 1989 and, on retirement, remained in Thurnscoe, subsequently

working for the local authority for 3 years on raising standards in education.

At the same time, he was turning his attention to the voluntary sector and took a number of roles, including chairing Voluntary Action Barnsley and being an active member of a wide range of locally based organisations. In all these, his sympathy with and understanding of local people's needs, and his willingness to meet face to face all manner of people, particularly those in difficult situations, gained him much admiration. He did a lot of work with the Elmhurst Trust, providing small but absolutely essential grants to people wanting to have a second chance in education or training – his detailed knowledge of their situation, their needs and their potential enabled him to distribute the money wisely and very effectively.

Liz Norris, VAB Chair said "I was so sad to hear of the death of Denis Owen. He will be remembered for his involvement with Voluntary Action Barnsley, where he achieved a tremendous amount, working tirelessly as a Trustee and as Chair for 6 years. His commitment, dedication, thoughtfulness and quiet manner earned him much respect from staff and fellow Trustees. I learned much from him and it was he who first approached me to consider becoming a Trustee and nominated me for the position of Chair. Outside of VAB he was a very articulate and interesting gentleman, who was well read and had a love of France. I will treasure the times we spent drinking coffee and discussing the language, food, wine and lifestyle there. It has been an honour knowing him and he will be missed by many".

## SUSTAINABILITY ROUTE MAP

The Sustainability Route Map is a new resource for voluntary and community organisations and groups in South Yorkshire. It provides information, advice and signposting, on options for a sustainable future.

The Route Map is a guide to options for organisational sustainability, with sections on a variety of major financial options – joint venture, enterprise and trading, asset based development, procurement, funding and volunteering. A Route Map flow chart provides an easy to use overview and quick guide to the options available. For each option there is a section providing an overview, generic steps, pros and cons, motivations and relevant government policy, as well as available finance.

The Route Map was informed by 2 small research exercises. A survey into sustainability, carried out with third sector organisations in South Yorkshire, found that only a minority of VCOs consider themselves to be sustainable. A tender mapping exercise found a strong mismatch between third sector supply of services and public sector demand and highlighted issues of access for organisations who are considering the public procurement tendering route. The Route Maps also include policy context and literature reviews of publications on sustainability, and the Action Plan section sets out a number of recommendations for the future of the third sector.

**The Route Map is now available on the South Yorkshire Open Forum website at:**

[www.syopenforum.org.uk](http://www.syopenforum.org.uk).

For further information contact [enquiries@syopenforum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@syopenforum.org.uk)

## DIAL Barnsley Wins Support From the Department of Health!

In March this year the Government announced plans to transform the lives of disabled people and extra funding for 12 organisations that are run by disabled people.

The 'Independent Living Strategy', a cross government strategy which underlines the Government's commitment to supporting disabled people, was published by the Office for Disability Issues. It was developed in partnership with disabled people and aims to give them more choice and control over the support they need and greater access to employment, transport, health and housing opportunities.

Welcoming the Strategy, Prime Minister Gordon Brown said: "We are committed to a vision of equality for all disabled people by 2025. A vision for Britain where all citizens are respected and included as equal members, and where everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

This Strategy sets out how we will make progress towards achieving that goal. Transferring power to those needing support and joining up services to ensure this happens, changes the way in which support and services are delivered and experienced. It unlocks opportunities, enables people to participate and contribute, and strengthens our communities."

The strategy shows how 6 central government departments will work with disabled people and their organisations to ensure they have the opportunities others take for granted.

The Department of Health sees User Led Organisations (ULO's) as key to achieving independent living for disabled people. They have awarded grants to 12 organisations and the best practice resulting from the funding will be shared to ensure every locality has the chance to develop a ULO.

In a letter of congratulation, Ivan Lewis, Minister for Care Services, told DIAL Barnsley "As you will be aware, the Department of Health has taken very seriously the recommendation in Improving Life Chances of Disabled People (2005) that by 2010, there should be a User Led Organisation (ULO) modelled on the existing Centres for Independent Living in every local authority area.

The launch of the Independent Living Strategy and the ULO Development Fund grants has highlighted the importance of disabled people being able to achieve independent living – to have as much choice and control as they want over the support they need to go about their daily lives.

ULOs will help deliver this aim and play an important role in providing a voice and supporting those who would like to exercise choice and control but find accessing support, advice and services difficult."

Jill Morton, ULO Project Manager, DIAL Barnsley said: "We are delighted to have been selected to receive this additional funding, which has been awarded to help us improve links with – and get support from – the local authority, the PCT and other sources.

Through consultation with other groups and by drawing on the expertise of our clients, we will be able to feed their views and needs into the decision makers and ultimately contribute to shaping the services in Barnsley. It will help us achieve our vision that disabled people should have the same choice and control over how they live their lives as everyone else."

If you would like to know more about this project or want to get involved Jill can be contacted on 01226 240273

# LEGAL SNAPSHOT

## INDEPENDENT SAFEGUARDING AUTHORITY UPDATE

Following recent discussions, the ISA has now announced that its new scheme will go live on **12th October 2009**.

The cost of registration will be:

**Part 1 - £28.00** covering the costs of: administering the registration process with ISA, the instant online registration checking system, volunteers registering with the scheme, continuous monitoring and updating whilst registered with the scheme.

**Part 2 - £36.00** covering CRB's costs as administrators of the applications.

**Thus a total cost of £64.00**

The members of the ISA publicly appointed Board are due to be announced in the near future. Watch this space for further info ...

For further details on the new ISA registration, please contact Jane Jefferson or Ann Moffatt on 01226 286841 or 0845 231 1313

## SEX DISCRIMINATION

The **Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (Amendment) Regulations 2008** came into effect on **6th April 2008**. They have introduced various changes:

Expanding the definition of sex harassment meaning that the recipient of harassment need no longer be the primary recipient. For example, it could now include claims for unwanted conduct by witnesses of sexual harassment.

Employers must take reasonably practicable steps to protect employees from harassment by third parties where it is known that it has occurred on at least 2 other occasions, whether the third party is the same or a different person.

The requirement for a discrimination claim on the grounds of pregnancy or maternity leave no longer requires a comparator who is not pregnant nor on maternity leave.

Women whose expected week of childbirth begins on or after **5th October 2008** will have increased rights in relation to terms and conditions.

For further information or advice on Sex Discrimination or any other equality matter please contact Jane Jefferson on 01226 286841 or 0845 231 1313

## INCREASING TRANSPARENCY IN FUNDRAISING

From **April 2008** the **Charities Act 2006** will introduce important changes to assist the general public to make more informed choices about whom they wish to donate to. New rules have been introduced, tightening up statements made by fundraisers in relation to public collections.

For further information on fundraising and Charity Law please contact Ann Moffatt on 01226 286841 or 0845 231 1313

## EMPLOYEE CONSULTATION

From **6th April 2008** employers with more than **50 employees** will be obliged to negotiate an information and consultation agreement if more than 10% of employees request it.

Employers with more than **50 employees** will have a duty to consult with employees if they propose to make changes to occupational pension schemes.

Please contact either Ann Moffatt or Jane Jefferson for further guidance on 01226 286841 or 0845 231 1313

A bi-monthly CATS Legal Update is also available. Barnsley organisations can register for this by contacting VAB's Marketing Officer **Naomi Douglas** on 01226 242726

VAB welcomes feedback on its services from customers and service users. If you wish to make a compliment, complaint or comment, please contact us for a copy of our procedure or send your comments to:

**Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Barnsley, 35 Queens Road, Barnsley. S71 1AN**

**Tel 01226 242726**

**Fax 01226 206580**

**E-Mail: [info@vabarnsley.org.uk](mailto:info@vabarnsley.org.uk)**

### Newsletter/Press Queries

If you have any queries regarding this publication, wish to be featured or want to be added or deleted from the mailing list, contact Naomi Douglas on 01226 242726 or you can email her at [naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk](mailto:naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk)

### Opening Hours

Mon - Thurs 9.00 am - 5.00 pm  
Fri 9.00 am - 4.30 pm

### Meeting Room

VAB has a meeting/training room available for hire. It can seat up to 20 people around tables and up to 35 people conference style (£15 per session).

### Leaflets/Flyers

To reach over 1000 groups in Barnsley you can include leaflets in with this newsletter.

For a standard A5 flyer, prices are £25 for voluntary and community groups or £50 for statutory bodies (subject to weight and size).

Did you receive this newsletter via post? Would you rather receive it by email? If so please email

[naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk](mailto:naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk)

If you wish to receive this magazine in an alternative format or language please contact us and we will endeavour to arrange that for you.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Voluntary Action Barnsley.

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