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2008 July/August E-News



Voluntary Action Waltham Forest E-Newsletter July / August 2008

Welcome to July/ August's E-Newsletter from Voluntary Action Waltham Forest.

As a lot of you will be on the summer break for July and August, we have decided to wait and issue the next Voluntary Views in early September. This means there are lots of announcements and news stories for us to cover in this newsletter, which is why it's such a bumper edition!

VAWF News

AGM

Back in May VAWF had a very successful AGM and Conference where we had a presentation on the Grassroots Fund for small groups by Julian Martin of O-Regen (see Funding News below) and presentations from a number of successful member groups:

- Waltham Forest Congolese Network
- Scribble and Smudge
- African Heritage and Educational Centre
- Kreative Culture Klub
- Apex Arts

Our committee now looks like this:

Valentin Yombo Djema (Chairperson)
Africa Foundation Stone

Sidney Milambo (Treasurer)
Independent

Kay Watmough
Independent

Dr Stella Creasey
Independent

Mohd. N Khan
Asian Mela

Dr Jasmine Taylor
(Vice chair)
Jasmine Scholars

Tim Bennet-Goodman
Apex Arts (WF Arts Council)

Steve Williams
Forest Recycling Project

Brian Kapp
Waltham Forest Sports Council

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Neil Collins

East London Harmony

Dr Mel Evans

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On the Move?

We are looking for new premises, so we would like to hear information of available premises in Walthamstow.

Members News

AHEC News

Keep up to date with all the news from The African Heritage and Educational Centre.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

Did you grow up in a multilingual family?

The **Waltham Forest Bilingual Group** want to interview adults who grew up in a multilingual/bilingual situation for a unique new book collecting together these experiences to share them with new parents just starting out to raise their children bilingually today.

Generally they have had a lot of very positive examples of those raised speaking several European languages and are now more interested in interviewing those who were raised bilingually in other parts of the world or speaking African or Asian languages and those who had more mixed experiences growing up bilingually.

If you might be interested in taking part, call Claire on 020 8531 6448 for a preliminary chat or send me an email at Claire_thomas2000@yahoo.co.uk

The Bangladeshi Women's Society would like to invite you to attend the AGM and supplementary Education Project end of year celebration, which will take place :

Venue: EPI Centre,

Address: West Street, Leytonstone E11.4JL

Date: Saturday 2nd of August

Time: 1.30pm to 4pm.

"I would like every member to do the best to attend the meeting, and support the event on that day. Please fill up the attendance form and confirm your booking by Email:h_bangladesh@hotmail.com or ring 0208 5395523 by 21st of July 2008.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the meetings."

Hosna Bangladesh

Manager

Funding and Fundraising News

We have collected together news on fundraising and grants, for the latest information, please [check our website](#).

Grassroots Grants

O-Regen will be managing the Grassroots Grants programme in Waltham Forest. The programme will see £108,000 of small grants awarded in the first year of the programme, and overall over £300,000 of grants over the lifetime of the programme.

The Grassroots Programme is a grants programme for community groups, who can receive up to £5,000 over a three year period. As well as grants up to £5,000 Grassroots will also approve small grants of up to £1,000 to community groups.

Julian Martin O-Regen's Chief Executive stated, This is excellent news for local community organisations providing invaluable assistance to support the work of local groups. To help groups apply for these grants O-Regen will also be providing capacity building support for community groups. In this regard we will be supported by Voluntary Action. He went to say, Over the next few weeks O-Regen will be consulting with local groups to determine the priorities for the first year of the grassroots programme. It is likely that we will hold three calls a year for grants for those grants up to £5,000, although applications for small grants up to £1,000 will be continuously running.

Details as to how to apply will be available from the O-Regen website by the end of July.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

Community Spaces Funding Programme

Groundwork UK has launched the £50million Community Spaces grants programme which has been funded through the Big Lottery Funds Changing Spaces Initiative.

Community Spaces will provide grants and support to community groups that want to make their neighbourhoods cleaner and greener. Local people across England will be able to improve and create play areas, community gardens, parks, wildlife areas, ponds, courts and village greens.

For more information about the programme and how to apply for grants visit the website or call the advice line on 0845 3671671

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

NAVCA and the Sustainable Funding Project

Increasingly charities are being told to move away from grant dependency, become more business like, earn income, develop an asset base and consider loan finance. And opportunities for delivering public services are increasing.

But practically, how?

The Sustainable Funding Project offers a range of services to help organisations think about a full range of options.

[READ MORE](#)

The City Bridge Trust

currently funds small organisations across Greater London with an income of under £50,000 per year for working with older people. A grant of up to £20,000 over two years is available, which can be used for either capital, revenue or a mixture of both, along with capacity building support in the form of a specialist consultant who will work with the grant holder to help develop their services.

The City Bridge Trust is now undertaking a review of this scheme and has announced a deadline for applications of midday on **1st October 2008**.

Therefore, if you know of any organisation which you think might benefit from a

grant plus capacity building support, you should advise them to apply to this scheme as soon as possible. Decisions will continue to take around 4 months as they do at present. Full guidelines and an application form can be downloaded from their website.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

Local News

We have a copy of the Waltham Forest Crimestoppers Anti Social Behaviour Policy on our website.

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

Waltham Forest and its future

Sustainable Community Strategy - By now you should be very familiar with the Sustainable Community Strategy published by the council setting out plans and hopes for the next 20 years in Waltham Forest. In case you missed it, here's the link to the council's website where you can find out more, and download the policy.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

What is the East and Southeast London City Strategy Pathfinder?

Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and **Waltham Forest**.

The City Strategy Pathfinder brings together the organisations responsible for employment and skills, to tackle the high and persistent number of residents not in employment, and the consequent high levels of child poverty.

It is one of 15 City Strategy Pathfinders launched by the Department of Work and Pensions in April 2007.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Local Government Charity Toolkit

The Local Government Charity Toolkit is a free online reference manual designed to help local authorities work with charities. The toolkit has been developed by the Charity Commission, in liaison with the LGA, the National Association for Voluntary & Community Action, and the Commission for the Compact.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

Key NHS appointment announced

Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust, which is the NHS organisation responsible for improving health and health services in Waltham Forest through funding of Whipps Cross Hospital, GPs, dentists and opticians, announces the appointment of Councillor Afzal Akram as Chair of the Board, succeeding Joan Saddler OBE. Councillor Akram's appointment is from 28 June 2008 to 27 June 2012. The remuneration payable for the Chair post is £32,923 per annum. The appointment was made in line with the OCPA Code of Practice.

Weekend Activities at the William Morris Gallery and Vestry House Museum

Sunday 24 August 12-4pm Vestry House Museum

Indian Arts and Crafts

Saturday 30 August 2pm Vestry House Museum
Sing Songs of Summer

Sunday 7 September 12-4pm Vestry House Museum
Garden Open Day

Sunday 14 September 12-4pm William Morris Gallery
Decorate London's Skyline

Green Events

Every year the Council publishes a really comprehensive list of green events in Waltham Forest. To see what's going on for the rest of the year, see their website.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

National News

Future of Local Compacts

There is an online forum where you can discuss your experiences or the last 10 years of the Compact. The review process for the legal status and future of national Compact/codes of good practice and the Commission has effectively started with the opening public conversation on the 7th July held by Compact Voice, Commission for the Compact and Office of the Third Sector. For Local Compacts, a number of issues will arise out of the review and Local Compact Voice must be proactive on this matter, with Local Compact implementation groups being integral to the process.

This forum has an article on "Future of Local Compacts – Biggest shake-up since Compact began?" in the archives.

The forum will keep members informed and engaged in active discussion.

Attached is a preliminary document on the subject matter.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

Connecting Communities Conference

Violence.isolation.despair... What can the church do?

Our cities often have some of the biggest and most vibrant churches in the UK. Yet these cities are also centres of violence, isolation and despair. Faced with these challenges, what can the church do? Find out by attending "connecting communities" timely conference on the 19th September 2008.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Review on the Role of SMEs in Public Procurement

As part of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's Enterprise Strategy and Budget 2008, the Chancellor, Alistair Darling, announced that Anne Glover, Chief executive of Amadeus Capital Partners, would lead an independent inquiry into the barriers faced by small companies looking to supply goods or services to the public sector.

The committee is considering ways to increase opportunities for SMEs and the practicality of a goal of such companies winning 30 per cent of all public sector contracts. Small companies and industry groups have now been invited to share their experiences of doing business across both central government and local authorities. The Glover review will consider issues such as improved tendering procedures, better information for SMEs and reducing the barriers SMEs may face when competing for public sector contracts.

A **Call for Evidence** has been launched, and businesses and public sector procurers are now being invited to input into this work to ensure that the committee is fully informed of the real issues faced at grass root level. It will

also ensure that businesses and those working in this area are given the opportunity to shape future policy.

To have your say please complete the short questionnaire via the following link:
WEBSITE LINK

Why grants are important for a healthy local VCS

A study of four local authorities' policies by NAVCA

This report explores the grant funding relationship between local government and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) as part of the local funding mix. It provides snapshot examples of the grant funding relationship and grant funding practice of four very different local authorities, each of which recognises a need for, and has demonstrated a degree of commitment to, on-going grant provision. These examples attempt to shed light on the nature of this commitment, the drivers for it and the perceived outcomes of it. The intention is to provoke discussion at national level and amongst local partners who are seeking to address VCS funding issues responsibly.

DOWNLOAD REPORT

Community Development Network London

Is organised by a small voluntary collective of community development (CD) practitioners.

It is being supported by the London Empowerment Partnership to provide a Community Development Workers Forum, which will meet 3 times a year. Do you work (unpaid or paid) with communities in or near London to support them in their development? If so, this Network is for you. Come and join us. CD managers, policy workers, academics & consultants are also welcome as associate members.

Email your details to:

CDNLondon@nutbrook.demon.co.uk- your name & address, London Borough/District & job/work title

Networks - Children and Young Person's Providers

Launch of New Youth Crime Intervention Services and Workshop

Pitts Report one year on What were doing

Thursday 31st July 2008

12.30pm-4.pm

The Score, Oliver Road, Leyton E10

Reluctant Gangsters, the final report of research into young peoples involvement in gang activity in Waltham forest was published early last year.

The report by Professor Pitts provided an incisive analysis and spatial distribution of gang activity in the borough. It has since informed our youth crime prevention strategy including the commissioning of targeted interventions for at-risk young people.

If you are a social worker, police or probation officer, work in a youth offending team, the voluntary or community sector or an interested individual, this workshop is for you!

Participation: The Essential Tools and Resources

Thursday 18th September, London.

Hosted by Participation Works.

Participation: The Essential Tools and Resources is a one day conference that will explore the available tools and resources to support children and young people's participation in a range of settings. Delegates at the conference will learn how to use tools and resources to improve children and young people's participation. Participants will also be able to discuss specific participation issues through a number of workshops. The conference will be a great networking opportunity for everyone involved in participation

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Participation Works Enquiry Service at enquiries@participationworks.org.uk

[BOOK ONLINE](#)

What would make London better for young people?

Back in May London Funders' member meeting and AGM discussed this topic. It proved to be London Funders' biggest meeting yet, with a very high proportion of members attending. See the website for a report of the discussion, as well as a publication compiled by members of London funders to bring together in one place information on sources of funding for work by and with young people in London.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

Networks - Health Providers

Consultation on polyclinics

There will be consultations on polyclinics in Leyton/Leytonstone and Chingford. The Leyton/Leytonstone event on the afternoon of 29th July at the Epicentre, and the Chingford event the morning of 30th July at Chingford Assembly Hall. Please book by contacting Maya Doolub at Waltham Forest PCT on 020 8430 7370, or e mail her on Maya.Doolub@wf-pct.nhs.uk.

Extra Care Housing (Department Of Health 22 July 2008)

Health and Care Minister Ivan Lewis today announced the sites that will benefit from £80million of Government funding to build extra care housing.

The schemes will enable older people and those with dementia and long-term conditions to live in a home of their own. He will today be presenting the successful Barnsley extra care housing scheme with a cheque for £3.8 million together with Sir Michael Parkinson.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

Equalities

Age Concern Waltham Forest

Age Concern is really active here in WF, check out their website for loads of news and projects.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

Action for Advocacy

Advocacy is taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain services they need.

Action for Advocacy (A4A) is the central point of information on independent

advocacy.
[WEBSITE LINK](#)

BTEG - Black Training and Enterprise Group publishes briefing document on 2012 inclusion

The Olympic Delivery Authority's Race Equality Scheme identifies clear aims to be implemented that could lead to a positive change for London's BME community (particularly within the 5 host boroughs). This policy briefing examines those aims and gives recommendations to the ODA on how the promise for London and its BME community can indeed become a reality.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

The Cultural Leadership Programme.

The programme seeks to embed a culture of support and development for leaders in the sector, building on existing practice, addressing current gaps in provision, learning lessons from other sectors and countries, and ensuring that this initial investment delivers a sound basis for long-term change in business leadership skills development.

There are lots of resources and opportunities on their website.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

Reminiscence Training from Age Exchange

Age Exchange is running a one-day training workshop Introduction to Reminiscence on Monday 22 September.

Our reminiscence training is for health and social care staff, community arts workers, teachers, librarians and museums workers. Everyone interested in developing reminiscence work skills.

We are able to provide our reminiscence training for groups of up to 16 people at your own venue. For more details of our external training service please contact meg.hamilton@age-exchange.org.uk

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

Internet Resources:

LVSC has just carried out an **Equalities Audit of LVSC** and the link is below - there is a resource and signpost section at the end of the report in Appendix 2 with current resources that you can use.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

Another very useful piece of work, which was recently launched is the **Olmecc Guide to Equality and Diversity for the Third Sector** which has resources and signposts throughout.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

HEAR (formerly the London Regional Consortium of ChangeUp Equalities and Human Rights sub-group) have also recently published their Gaps and Solutions: supporting London's equality sectors report.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

compiled by Tim Brogden
Policy & Networks Development Officer
London Voluntary Service Council

Training

For the latest information on VAWF training, please [check our website](#).

Tendering for Care(TfC)

The leading national provider of training and support for Care, Housing, Support, Voluntary and Third Sector Organisations in tendering for publicly funded contracts.

Visit their website for full details of the training they are running for the rest of the year.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

The Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

ESA becomes law on the 27.10.2008. From that date, incapacity benefit will be abolished for new claims, as will income support for all those who want to start claims on the basis of being sick /or disabled/. ESA will therefore become the new, standard benefit for sick or disabled people. The ESA test of sickness is harder to pass, and far fewer will be exempted from the test, compared to the current system. The government is looking for at least an extra 60,000 people a year to fail the new test, as compared to the current Personal Capability Assessment.

VAWF is thinking of organising some training over this issue, if you are interested, please email barbara@voluntaryaction-wf.org.uk

AdviceUK - Workforce sustainability - Getting the balance right

How can advice centres invest in workforce development in the current funding environment?

On the 9 and 11 September 2008, the Sustainable Advice Project (S.A.P.) and the Governance Project will host a joint seminar on workforce sustainability. Advice organisations and Trustees will have the opportunity to meet together with other members and at the same time hear from a range of speakers that will seek to address questions on how members can meet the challenges and opportunities presented by workforce sustainability.

For full details, see their website

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

LVSC Short Courses

"Quality training at an affordable price for London's voluntary and community sector". LVSC has launched their short course programme for up to July 2009, see website for full details.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

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