



the echo

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Summit – Responding to the Recession

To share an understanding of the impact of the recession, representatives from a range of agencies met on the 3 March 2009 to discuss the impact of the recession and what it will mean to the people and businesses within Dudley.

Outcomes from the summit highlighted:

- the current priorities - short and medium term
- the need to take stock of what is already being done to support people/businesses
- the need for a multi agency approach
- current responses to the economic downturn.

As part of various initiatives being planned to support businesses to have greater sustainability and help people back into employment, a recession workshop – netbus will be touring Dudley Borough on Saturday 25 April 2009. The aim of the netbus is to allow individuals access to a range of support agencies to help them through the economic downturn.

More information about the netbus event will be circulated through the Dudley CVS email bulletins over the next few weeks.

A multi agency Task Force has been established and is chaired by John Polychronakis, the Interim Chief Executive of Dudley MBC. Dudley CVS have been invited to be a member and the group will be meeting monthly to devise and deliver an action plan. If any voluntary organisation wishes to provide details of issues they are currently facing due to the recession, please forward them to Caroline Webb at Dudley CVS.

In addition, Dudley CVS and the Voluntary Sector Network have agreed that their next event will be all around the recession and will be held in early June. This will provide VCOs with the opportunity to give a voluntary sector perspective to the issues being faced by organisations and also to share details of existing projects that are being provided to support the residents of Dudley. Further details around the date and venue will be published in future editions of the Echo.

For further information, please contact Caroline Webb:
Tel: 01384 267429
Email: carolinewebb@dudleycvs.org.uk



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local training

Developing a high quality, proactive voluntary sector for the benefit of the residents of Dudley Borough by positively engaging partners in support of voluntary activity.

AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT ON REQUEST

How can we help?

Dudley CVS works with all community and voluntary groups, however small or big, and does not charge for its services. Working with a range of partners, Dudley CVS is at the forefront of voluntary and community sector representation.

Specialist Help

The Core Team offer support tailored to suit your needs, including help with organisational policies and procedures; and support with your management structure

Keep up to date

Find out about new developments affecting the voluntary and community sector and discuss them with others on our forum at: www.dudleycvs.org.uk

Become a member

Membership is free to any voluntary and community organisation operating in Dudley. Members enjoy a range of services and support.

For more details contact:

The Core Services Team on 01384 573381 or email: core@dudleycvs.org.uk

Employment Law Changes from April 2009

Statutory Annual Leave goes up from 4.8 to 5.6 weeks (28 days) from 1 April 2009. If employees' leave entitlement increases, they must be notified in writing by the end of April.

For more information, visit:
Website: www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#annualleave

Right to request flexible working is extended to parents of children under 17 from 6 April 2009.

For more information, visit:
Website: www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#parentflexible

Statutory sick pay has increased to £79.15 per week, **statutory maternity, paternity and adoption pay** has increased to £123.06 per week from 6 April 2009.

For more information, visit:
Website: www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#sickpay and www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#matpatpay

The **ACAS Code of Practice on Discipline and Grievance** has been approved by Parliament and any disciplinary and grievance procedures starting after 6 April 2009 must follow the new guidelines.

For further information, please visit:
Website: www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#discipline

NJC Pay Negotiations 2008/09

The arbitration panel has awarded an additional 0.3% award with effect from 1 April 2008 representing an overall increase of 2.75%.

For details of the new scales, visit:
Website: www.navca.org.uk/localvs/scales



Online Fundraising Analysis Tool

Small and medium sized charities will be able to analyse the potential success of their fundraising strategies during the recession with a free online 'health check'. The Fundraising Health Check, developed by the Institute of Fundraising and Think Consulting Solutions, is an automated program that analyses income and expenditure data and produces a printable report outlining weaknesses and recommendations for improvement.

To download the health check, visit:
Website: www.fundraisinghealthcheck.org



Acevo Recession Website

Acevo has launched a website to help third sector organisations weather the recession. The site contains guides and tips written by expert on finance, management and career development. It also includes news on the recession and links to organisations, events and courses.

For more information, visit:
Website: www.recessionsupport.org.uk



Charity Football Match at the Dell Stadium

Amy French a local 12 year old girl, her uncle Gary Palmer and Dudley Town Football Club are hosting a charity football game in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital - Cancer Unit.

The charity match will be held at the Dell Stadium on Sunday 17th May at 3pm. You can book a place before the event or pay on the gate on the day, £5 total admission per person (Kid's free) which includes programme, entrance and raffle. Programmes go on sale mid April.

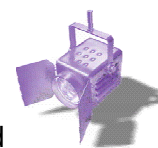
Amy is a very brave young girl battling with leukaemia so please support them on the day and help to raise money for Birmingham's Children's Hospital.

All proceeds will be donated to Birmingham's Children's Hospital - Cancer Unit.

For more information about adverts and ticket sales contact John Langford on:
Tel: 07779 128810
Website: www.dudleytownfc.org.uk

Nacro in Dudley

At their training centre in Pensnett, Nacro provide opportunities for young people aged 14 - 19 years, to take part in a range of accredited training programmes aimed at building confidence and employability skills. They run a Kickstart life programme which is aimed at young people on the NEET register, their E2E programme offers them the opportunity to progress. They are also just about to start a new music technology project. Finally we operate a teenage pregnancy project for Young Moms to Be.



If you would like to refer anyone to their services, or perhaps have activities which some of the young people might like to take part in please call Mark Guy, Team Leader:
Tel: 01384 276020 or 07795 264295
Email: mark.guy@nacro.org.uk

Calendar of Religious and Secular Dates

On Dudley MBC website a useful calendar of religious and secular dates including bank holidays is available to download.

To access the calendar, please visit:
Website: www.dudley.gov.uk/community-and-living/equality—diversity/events-and-celebrations/cultural-calendar

local training/events

Date & Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Thurs 23 April 2009 10.00am—5.00pm	Presentation Skills/Public Speaking for Beginners	Central Birmingham	Linda Cressey Tel: 01384 895633
Sat 25 April 2009 10.00am onwards	St Georges Day Festivities	Brierley Hill	Pam Ndong Tel: 07977 775977
Mon 27 April 2009 1.00pm—4.00pm	Mental Health Awareness	Brierley Hill	Eileen Fielding Tel: 01384 267414
Mon 27 April 2009 10.00am—4.00pm	Writing Successful Funding Applications/Bid Writing	Central Birmingham	Linda Cressey Tel: 01384 895633

funding

How can we help?

Sourcing Funding

If your group is currently considering options for funding, Dudley CVS can help you identify sources of funding and assist in developing funding applications.

New Groups

Dudley CVS has a specialist Officer to support new groups start up and become established. We can assist in the development of constitutions, charity and/or company registrations and finding funding for your basic start up needs.

Resource Room

Dudley CVS has a resource room at our Albion Street office. In the resource room your group can access a wide range of books including a well stocked section on various aspects of fundraising. The resource room also offers groups the opportunity to use the comprehensive funder finder software package or look at funders' guidelines on the internet.

For more details contact:

The Core Services Team on 01384 573381 or email: core@dudleycvs.org.uk

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Announces Changes to its Grant Making Programme for 2009

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, who make grants in social wellbeing, culture and education areas, have announced that funding provided this year will be proactive, identifying partners who best meet their aims for 2009. The only fund open to applications will be a new Innovation Fund where grants of between £10,000 and £25,000 will be made to not-for-profit organisations for projects enabling them to work with other organisations. The Foundation may occasionally give funding for projects that are developed as a result of an Innovation grant; however the Foundation stress that they do not guarantee continued support. Applications can be submitted at any time and will be considered at one of three annual Trustee Meetings.

For more information, contact:
Tel: 020 3178 3334
Email: info@gulbenkian.org.uk
Website: www.gulbenkian.org.uk/

Alcohol Education and Research Council – Small Grants Programme

Community groups can apply for funding of up to £5,000 for projects that increase the capacity of individuals and organisations to deal with alcohol issues through research or action orientated activities/events. Projects that are innovative and make a difference will be given priority. Applications can be made at any time.

For more information, contact Andrea Tilouche:
Tel: 020 7340 9502
Website: www.aerc.org.uk/grants.htm

Carbon Trust announce new funding to reduce UK Carbon Emissions

The Carbon Trust's Applied Research Programme is open to voluntary organisations and research institutions to support the development and commercialisation of technology with the potential to reduce UK carbon dioxide emissions. Up to £500,000 is available for projects that can:

- demonstrate genuine innovation;
 - contribute to substantial reductions in UK greenhouse gas emissions;
 - show well planned work building on previous activities;
 - produce results that will allow a clear step forward on the path towards commercialisation;
 - represent good value for money.
- Application closing date is 16 April 2009.

For more information, contact:

Tel: 0800 085 2005

Email:

customercentre@carbontrust.co.uk

Website: www.carbontrust.co.uk/technology/appliedresearch/

BT Community Connections

Community and charitable groups are invited to apply for a laptop and a year's free broadband connection with over 1,000 award packages through a new BT Award scheme. Organisations will need to demonstrate how an award will benefit their work and the local community. There are 2 rounds, closing dates 9 June 2009 and 5 January 2010.

For more information, contact:

Tel: 0845 257 6792

Email:

info@btcommunityconnections.com

Website:

www.btcommunityconnections.com

Sportsmatch Announces 2009/10 Funding Round

Sportsmatch (funded by Sport England supporting the development of grassroots sport) is now open for applications, offering matched funding to investments made by organisations into projects that encourage sports participation. The funding available is primarily for running costs (maximum grant £100,000) although capital awards of up to £25,000 can be made through the scheme. The scheme is open to community based sports projects, in particular those that benefit young people, disability groups, black and minority ethnic groups and/or women and girls.

For more information, contact:

Tel: 08458 508508

Email: info@sportsmatch.co.uk

Website: http://funding.sportengland.org/funding_programmes/sportsmatch.aspx



Sport Unlimited – new funding pot for Dudley

Targeting “semi sporty” young people (those that are currently participating in 3 hours sporting activities a week), offering them an extra 1-2 hours of sport each week through out of school and community clubs, Dudley borough have been awarded £44,000 for projects meeting these objectives. Applications must be submitted by 1st May 2009, and projects have to be held during the period September-December 2009 for activities creating additional provision delivered in blocks of 10 one hour sessions for age group 5-19 (priority will be given for projects benefitting 11-19 year olds). Sporting activities eligible include dance, aerobics, climbing and skateboarding as well as the traditional ones associated with Sport England.

For more information (including guidance notes/application forms) contact Liz Neale, Sport and Physical Activity Officer:

Tel: 01384 812743

Email: liz.neale@dudley.gov.uk

Website: www.sportengland.org/sport_unlimited.htm

Skills Fund Open To Applications

A new fund offering assistance to Midlands based voluntary organisations to train and up-skill their staff is accepting applications. The University of Derby is inviting groups to register their interest in the £250,000 Skills Development Fund. Participating organisations can also receive in-depth consultancy support worth up to £3,000 to help identify areas of training that would be most beneficial to them. The deadline for signing up to take part in the programme is 30 April 2009.

For more information, contact:

Tel: 0800 678 3311

Email: udc@derby.ac.uk

Website: www.derby.ac.uk/corporate/skills-development-fund



Community Sustainable Energy Programme

Not for profit organisations are being invited to apply for funding to install renewable energy technologies (such as wind turbines and solar panels) and energy saving measures (such as roof and cavity wall insulation). The maximum Capital grant available is £50,000 or 50% of the project costs. The maximum Project development grant (for studies investigating the feasibility of installing any combination of the technologies) is £5,000 or 75% of the study cost - whichever is lower. The funding programme is being managed by the Building Research Establishment on behalf of the Big Lottery Fund's "Changing Spaces" Programme. The next application deadline is the 1 May 2009.

For more information, contact:

Tel: 0845 3671671

Email: info@communitysustainable.org.uk

Website: www.communitysustainable.org.uk/

How can we help?

Training

Dudley CVS offers free training on a range of issues including management committee roles and responsibilities, funding and business planning.

Promoting Groups and Events

To promote your group or events, contact our Information Officer. Assistance available includes placing information about your group or event in The Echo, one of our E-mail Bulletins, on our website or offering advice on how you can maximise publicity for your group or event.

Email Bulletins

Dudley CVS offers a range of email bulletins for groups and individuals interested in particular voluntary and community sector issues.

Help With Recruitment

If you are looking for new staff we can help you advertise your vacancies.

For more details contact:

The Core Services Team on 01384 573381 or email: core@dudleycvs.org.uk

Awards for All has changed!

Awards for All, the National Lottery's small grants scheme, changed on 31 March 2009. Now, the programme's four distributors (Big Lottery Fund, Sport England, Arts Council England and Heritage Lottery Fund) have each established their own small grants schemes. This means that you can apply for a grant from the most appropriate programme for your projects or activities. The four schemes are as follows:

- Big Lottery Fund launched a new small grants programme on 1 April awarding grants of £300 to £10,000 to local communities in 2009/10. This will continue under the name of Awards for All. For more information please visit www.awardsforall.org.uk or ring BIG advice line on 08454 10 20 30.
- Sport England will provide small grants for sports ranging from £300 - £10,000 from 1 April 2009. For more information on Sport England funding please visit www.sportengland.org or ring the Sport England Funding Line on 08458 508 508.
- Arts Council England will provide small grants through their existing 'Grants for the arts' programme, supporting awards between £1,000 and £100,000. For more information on Arts Council funding please visit www.artscouncil.org.uk or ring 0845 300 6200.
- Heritage Lottery Fund small grants will be provided through the existing 'Your Heritage' (£3,000 to £50,000) and 'Young Roots' (£3,000 to £25,000) schemes. For more information on the funding available from the Heritage Lottery Fund please ring 0207 591 6000 or visit www.hlf.org.uk.

Changes have been made to improve Lottery small grants provision as each Lottery distributor can better provide a programme tailored to their own target groups.

Please look out for Dudley CVS workshops on these and other funding programmes that will be happening across the borough in the coming weeks and months.

For more information on or help with applications to these funders, please contact Becky:

Tel: 01384 267431

Email:

smallgroups@dudleycvs.org.uk

Free Website for Voluntary Groups

The Community Website Builder allows registered UK charities, non-profit making organisations and volunteer led groups or organisations to build and maintain their own website free of charge.

The free website solution that can be built with the Community Website Builder is provided to qualifying organisations at no charge.

To qualify for use of the free service your organisation must be from the UK, providing a clear benefit to the local community, and be one of the following:

- Registered charity
- Non-profit making organisation
- Volunteer led group/organisation

All websites are manually checked, any website setup with incomplete registration information or that Recipero / BT deem to not qualify for the service will be taken off-line. Government funded organisations such as libraries and local / parish councils are unfortunately not eligible for this service.

For further details, please visit:

Website: www.communitykit.co.uk/p_home.ikml

The Children's Disability Register

It is estimated that 7% of the child population in England are living with a disability. It is a legal requirement for all local authorities in the UK to maintain a register of children and young people aged 0 - 18 years who have a disability. This is called the Children's Disability Register.

This register is VOLUNTARY and any information is treated confidentially, only details of disability, age and gender are shared with other professionals.

Nicola McGregor, the Register Co-ordinator, would like to hear from parents and carers about children who have a substantial physical, sensory or learning impairment that affects their ability to carry out regular daily activities. These children and young people may require significantly more personal help and attention than other children of a similar age. She would also like to know about children who are already in receipt of the middle or upper rate of Disability Living Allowance.

If you would like to know more about the Children's Disability Register, please contact Nicola McGregor, Register Co-ordinator:
Tel: 01384 815813
Email: Nicola.McGregor@dudley.gov.uk

Halesowen Integrated Services Partnership

This group has recently been established in Halesowen. The aim of this group is to ensure there is a co-ordinated and integrated approach to services and activities for children and young people in Halesowen. The group consists of representatives from schools, health, social care, voluntary and community organisations, Dudley MBC, etc. We'd like to ensure that all voluntary, community and faith organisations working in Halesowen have their voices heard in this Partnership.

If you would like to find out more please contact Arnie Troxler at Dudley CVS on:
Tel: 01384 267424
Email: childrens@dudleycvs.org.uk

Safeguarding Adults Abuse Awareness Training

Dudley MBC provides training to people working with vulnerable adults, to become competent and confident in both recognising the signs of abuse and neglect and in reporting their concerns.

The training lasts all day from 9.30am—4.30pm and lunch is provided. A number of dates are available.

For further information and to book a place, contact Julie Totney:
Tel: 01384 813125

Cancer Networking and Information Day

On Tuesday 19 May at Kingswindford Methodist Church, Stream Road, Kingswinford, the Greater Midlands Cancer Network is holding an event for patients, carers, volunteers and professionals to come together and talk about ways of improving care and support for people living with cancer in the Dudley area.

For further details and to book a place, please contact Pam Cartwright, at Cancer Support:
Tel: 01384 231232
Email: enquiries@support4cancer.org.uk

Come and join St Georges Parade!

We are still looking for people to help us fly the flag for local volunteers at the St Georges' Parade in Brierley Hill on April 25th!

Brightly coloured 'Volunteers Count!' sashes are up for grabs to anyone who would like to join us. Whether you belong to a community group, get stuck in with the environment or organise sporting activities – why not stand up and be counted! Register and collect your sash from Dudley CVS.

If you would like to find out more please contact Melissa Guest on:
Tel: 01384 267425
Email: melissaguest@dudleycvs.org.uk

volunteering

How can we help?

Recruiting Volunteers

The Volunteer Centre, which is hosted within Dudley CVS, can help you find and recruit volunteers. The centre also holds the details of a wide selection of volunteering opportunities.

Involving Volunteers

The Volunteer Centre can also help by offering information and support on good practice for managing volunteers, including developing policies and the marketing of volunteering opportunities.

Web Based Knowledgebank

The Volunteer Centre has its own section on Dudley CVS's website. The Knowledge bank holds a wealth of information, available to download. Contact our Volunteer Centre Development Officer to sign up for the Volunteering E-Bulletin.

For more details contact:

The Volunteer Centre on 01384 573381 or email: vb@dudleycvs.org.uk

Employee Volunteering Programmes

We are always on the lookout for new ways to get local people involved with volunteering and know that businesses all over the Borough take part in employee volunteering schemes; this is where employers give their staff the opportunity to volunteer in their local communities. Are you aware of any businesses who operate an Employee Volunteering Scheme or would be interested in starting one? The Volunteer Centre already works with a number of local businesses, offering them team challenges or longer-term volunteering opportunities.

Promote your Volunteering Opportunities for Free!

The Volunteer Centre attends a range of information sessions and events throughout the year such as careers fairs and community days, where we give out on average 2000+ information packs about volunteering. If you would like us to promote your volunteering roles, please send a supply of your leaflets to Eileen and we will put them in any packs we produce.

Celebrate Volunteers Week

1st – 7th June is Volunteers week and we've got lots of exciting events planned to help you to recognise your volunteers and to celebrate in style! Have a look at the enclosed flyer to see how you can get involved, or why not add your event to our exciting programme!

Contact Dudley Volunteer Centre to find out more or why not **make friends with us on Facebook!**

Eileen Fielding 01384 267414
Melissa Guest 01384 267425
www.volunteeringcounts.org.uk

The Mental Health of Staff and Volunteers

Shift is a Department of Health-funded initiative to tackle stigma and discrimination surrounding mental health issues in England. Shift works in the areas where people say they experience stigma and discrimination surrounding mental health the most; namely within the media and employment and aim to create a society where people who experience mental health problems enjoy the same rights as other people.

For further information and to request copies of resources, please visit:

Website: www.shift.org.uk/employers

Protection for Volunteers- Working with Vulnerable Adults Training Pack

Working with vulnerable adults places greater responsibility on your volunteers and can have implications for the organisation. Ensure your volunteers are equipped to deal with this client group. This is vital training for volunteers working with vulnerable adults and at the course end participants will:

- have an understanding of who is a vulnerable adult and the vulnerability of the adults they work with
- identified what is meant by abuse
- defined the different types of abuse and abusers
- explored how to spot signs of abuse and to deal with disclosure
- information on where to take concerns and how to report abuse
- discussed possible difficulties and consequences around reporting concerns of abuse

To order a training pack (£22+p&p)

contact Volunteer Solutions:

Tel: 01474 358281

Website:

www.volunteersolutions.org.uk