



the echo

Dudley CVS Member Survey

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service has been providing advice and support to local voluntary and community organisations since 1974. In an ever-changing world, Dudley CVS has continuously evolved to ensure the services we offer are tailored to meet new challenges faced by member organisations, both large and small. In the next few days affiliate members of Dudley CVS will be receiving a very important questionnaire. Please take just 15 minutes to complete as many of the questions as possible. It is YOUR chance to tell us what you think about what we do and how we do it. More importantly, it is an opportunity for your organisation to raise the concerns and issues that are affecting how you deliver, perform or fund your voluntary work. Is your income stream at risk or is your organisation struggling to cope?

The questionnaire, and the analysis of the responses we receive, will enable us to draw up a 'picture' of what is happening in the local voluntary sector and will influence how we can re-set our services to best help you and your organisation. So please, take 15 minutes of your time to help us help you better.

For further information contact:

Brendan McKeown, Dudley CVS Information Officer. Tel: 01384 267411

E-mail: support@dudleycvs.org.uk

Volunteering Counts ...What can you do?

Do you volunteer or do you know someone who does? Perhaps you give up your own time to support a local club or organisation but don't really consider it to be volunteering.

In the coming weeks people throughout Dudley Borough will be asked the question, "Do you volunteer?" as part of a borough wide survey.

Thousands of local people give up their time to make a difference every day;

"School governor, fundraiser, youth club helper, police special, football referee, play scheme assistant, treasurer, church cleaner, neighbourhood watch representative, community gardener, sports kit washer, youth counsellor, befriender, litter picker, mentor" It's all volunteering!

And now we need your help. If you know someone who gives unpaid help to groups, clubs or organisations that benefits other people or the environment, remind them that they are volunteers.

And if you volunteer yourself and are asked the question, you know what to do

Stand up and be Counted!!!

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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

Visit our website www.dudleycvs.org.uk

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

Dudley Voluntary Sector Local Resilience Action Plan (LRAP).

Does your group or organisation host informative training events but, for whatever reason, struggles to encourage a bigger take up of places? Do you have staff with skills and experience who might be willing to pass on their knowledge to other local voluntary organisations?

As part of the recently devised Local Resilience Action Plan (LRAP), which aims to support third sector through the current recession and beyond, Dudley CVS is developing a database of the training resources in the local area. The database will detail people who are willing to share their knowledge, skills and expertise, of, for example, information technology, finance and health & safety. So, if you have a training event that you wish to open up to a wider audience, or you have time to share your knowledge and expertise with voluntary groups, contact Caroline Webb on **01384 267429**.
E-mail

carolinewebb@dudleycvs.org.uk

New Service for BME Voluntary Sector

A new service to help and support Black & Ethnic Minority (BME) voluntary organisations has been launched. The *Service through Partnership* project is funded by the BIG Lottery BASIS 2 capacity building programme and will last for 5 years. It is designed to provide opportunity, leadership and resources to the BME sector and will be rolled out in Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Telford & Wrekin.

A series of localised events is being planned which aim to engage with local BME organisations. Further details; contact: Julie Symons, Infrastructure Support Officer. **Tel. 01384 456166** E-mail: julie.symons@cfed.org.uk.

Facilitators Required

VOICE UK is a national charity which supports disabled people who have experienced crime or abuse. The charity is currently recruiting facilitators in the West Midlands for its Vulnerable Victims Support & Safety Awareness Project. The role will involve facilitating self help groups and supporting volunteers with disabilities to deliver peer workshops on the theme of keeping safe. The hours are flexible (between 10 and 20 hours per month) and the hourly pay rate is £12.00. Job descriptions and application forms are available from Voice UK head office. Deadline for applications is 19th March at 5.00pm. Successful applicants will be self employed, responsible for paying their own Income Tax and National Insurance contributions. Appointments are subject to an enhanced CRB check.

E-mail: voice@voiceuk.org.uk

Telephone: 01332 291 042



A Great Place to Meet

An historic coach house in Oldswinford is opening its doors to social clubs, crafts groups, societies and any other small group who might want a cosy place to meet.

St Mary's Coach House Community Arts and Crafts Centre was refurbished in 1995 and boasts an art workshop and an upstairs room with kitchen facility. Rates start from £10 per hour.

Alternatively, new members are welcome to join some of the activities provided in the coach house, such as courses for special needs and learning disabilities.

For further information, call the Parish Administrator on 01384 441003.



Understanding the Internet

Disabled people, disability groups and disability service providers in Dudley have a unique opportunity to learn more about the latest Internet communication channels. 'Working Parts' is a specially-developed roadshow presented by the Black Country Arts & disabled Network. It promises to "unlock the mysteries of social networking" and throw new light on, amongst other things, Blogging, Tweeting and Facebook. The two hour long roadshow is being staged on Monday March 29th at the Retreat Community Café, Poplar Crescent, Dudley between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. It will help identify and overcome the fears, perceptions and the accessibility and explore the strengths and stumbling blocks that disability groups have in common, For more information contact Alan McLean Tel: **0121 552 0014** E-mail: alan@bctouring.co.uk Website: <http://www.workingparts.co.uk/>



Companies Act 2006

The Companies Act 2006 is now fully in force. Directors or employees involved in the administration of a company need to ensure they are fully aware of new legislation. Visit Companies House website www.companieshouse.org.uk or contact Caroline Webb at Dudley CVS for further information. Caroline Webb on **01384 267429**. E-mail: carolinewebb@dudleycvs.org.uk



Unison Trade Union – opening of Voluntary Sector branch

Unison, one of Britain's largest trade unions, (with over 1.3 million members) has announced the opening of a new Community Service Group for people working in the voluntary sector. Members of this new group will make their own decisions about workplace issues and set the direction the union is taking in representing, organising and campaigning on their behalf. Unison is looking to recruit new members working in the sector so if you are interested, contact: Tel: **0845 355 0845 (textphone 0800 0 967 968)** E-mail: cvsector@unison.co.uk Website: www.unison.org.uk



Family Information Directory

There is now an on-line place where families can search for information concerning primary and secondary schools, childcare, nurseries, family services, Sure Start Children's Centres and out of school care in their area. The Family Information Directory claims to show parents the full range of childcare provision available to them locally. Go to website: www.direct.gov.uk/en/Di011/DoltOnline/DG_10034063



Training Events

Date & Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Friday 12th March (Half day)	Supporting & Supervising Volunteers	To be advised	Eileen Fielding 01384 267414 vb@dudleycvs.org.uk

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

Ecominds - Closing date for Small Grants brought forward

Due to the large number of applications received, a revised closing date (30th April 2010) for this scheme has been announced (was 30th June). Through this programme, Ecominds (run by Mind as an award partner of the Big Lottery Fund) supports schemes that encourage people with experience of mental distress to get involved in environmental projects.

Organisations can apply for grants of up to £20,000 (budget under £250,000) for projects that have a mental health/ environmental theme, involve people with direct experience of mental distress, encourage community access and improve the environment.

For more information, contact:

Tel: 0845 766 0163 (Mind Info Line)

E-mail: contact@mind.org.uk

Website: www.mind.org.uk/ecominds



UnLtd RISE Accelerator

The Refugee Initiative for Social Entrepreneurs (RISE) scheme supports the potential of refugees as social entrepreneurs. Grants of £500-£5,000 are available for small groups of refugees/individuals to set up projects which will make their communities happier, safer, healthier and more just. RISE also supports refugees to achieve their full economic and social potential. UnLtd will provide dedicated support through training opportunities, tools and resources to assist with development of skills/projects. Applications are invited any time.

For more information, contact:

Tel: 0207 566 1136 E-mail:

rise@unltd.org.uk

Website: [www.unltd.org.uk/](http://www.unltd.org.uk/template.php?ID=55&PageName=rise:refugeewardsscheme)

[template.php?](http://www.unltd.org.uk/template.php?ID=55&PageName=rise:refugeewardsscheme)

[ID=55&PageName=rise:refugeewardsscheme](http://www.unltd.org.uk/template.php?ID=55&PageName=rise:refugeewardsscheme)

The Links Foundation

Grants are available for projects tackling social exclusion or poverty in disadvantaged communities. The type of activities that may be supported include:

- Advancing people's education;
- Reducing significant disadvantage;
- Addressing poverty, need or distress;
- Providing recreational/other leisure time occupation.

The Foundation will support new or existing projects for costs such as salary, rent and stationery as well as capital. The average grant per project is £20,000. Trustees meet every four months and the closing date for applications is four weeks before a meeting.

For more information, contact

Katherine Metcalfe:

Tel: 01642 236 486

E-mail:

information@linksfoundation.org

Website: www.linksfoundation.org/Default.aspx



Young Film Fund

First Light Movies provides grants enabling young people (aged 5-18) to participate in film productions. There are 3 funding streams:

- Studio Awards: grants up to £30,000 for 2-4 films (10 minutes)
- Script Awards: grants up to £3,000 for script writing projects for young people working with script professionals.
- Pilot Awards; grants up to £5,000 for one short film (5 minutes)

The fund re-opens for applications on the 2nd March 2010 with a closing date of 27th April. For further information, contact: **Tel: 0121 224 7511**

E-mail: info@firstlightonline.co.uk

Website: www.firstlightonline.co.uk/funding/young-film-fund



English Heritage (in association with Wolfson Foundation and War Memorials Trust)

The Grants for War Memorials scheme supports repair/conservation of freestanding war memorials through provision of funding for care and preservation, preventing their decay. Grants £500-£10,000 available for up to 50% of the costs.

Types of projects/work eligible for funding to restrain the process of decay of war memorials:

- maintaining overall appearance;
- preserving historic/architectural features;
- urgent/necessary repairs to fabric including works of structural stabilisation;
- improving legibility of eroded inscriptions;
- reinstating lost elements e.g. decorative features;
- cleaning;
- 'hard' landscaping - such as steps, walls and railings;
- conservation accredited architect/building surveyor fees to specify, inspect and certify the work.

Work undertaken must not disturb or destroy the historic fabric.

English Heritage encourages applicants to discuss their project before they apply by contacting the Conservation Officer at the War Memorials Trust (see below).

Closing dates for applications are 30th April/31st October annually.

For more information, contact:

Tel: War Memorials Trust 0207 881 0862

Email: grants@english-heritage.org.uk or info@warmemorials.org.uk

Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1124



Grants for Planting Trees

Funds are available for schools and community groups who are able to show that children under the age of 16 will be actively engaged in planting projects.

The Tree Council will fund projects costing £100-£700 with grants up to 75% towards the planting costs. The closing date for applications is 31st March 2010.

For more information, contact: **Tel: 020 7407**

9992 E-mail: info@treecouncil.org.uk

Website: www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=grants

B & Q Waste Donation Scheme

Schools, charities and community groups can apply for products and waste materials through the B&Q Waste Donate Scheme.

B&Q operates the scheme through all of its stores within the UK.

B&Q donates products and waste materials they haven't been able to sell for re-use such as slightly damaged tins of paint, off-cuts of timber, odd rolls of wallpaper and end-of-range materials. Donated products should benefit the local community and the environment and can not be resold.

Due to its Health & Safety scheme, electrical, petrol and gas items are not available for donation.

Applications must be made directly to B&Q stores.

Applications to the scheme can be made at any time Website: www.diy.com/wastedonation



Biffaward Small Grants Programme

Biffaward supports organisations that enable communities to improve local amenities and conserve wildlife by providing grants of £250-£5,000 for projects costing less than £10,000.

To be eligible, projects must be based within 10 miles of a Biffa operation and an active landfill site.

Biffa will not fund equipment or running costs.

Applications can be submitted at any time.

For more information, contact:

Tel: 01636 670000

E-mail: biffaward@rswt.org

Website: www.biffaward.org/about/soverview



Calling Small Groups

Voluntary groups, which help to support adults in the community and promote social activities, could benefit from a new Small Grant Scheme from Dudley Council.

A total of £47,120 is available to groups that provide leisure or social activities and are looking to extend their services to include people with disabilities and older people. Successful grants may be used to offset running costs, equipment purchase, training expenses, transport and venue hire. The closing date for entries is Friday April 2.

An application pack can be requested by calling **01384 815140** or following the links from

www.dudley.gov.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

Phasing Out of Cheques?

Following on from an article in the January 2010 edition of the Echo, it seems there has been a bit of a re-think on proposals to phase out cheques by 2018.

A Government Treasury spokeswoman said the needs of all users "will be taken into consideration and assured third sector organisations that cheques will not be phased out unless there are adequate alternatives in place."

This pledge will come as a relief to many local volunteers, such as Alan Bratt, Stourbridge District Scouts Commissioner.

Alan claims that almost every Scout Association transaction, payments received and made, is currently via cheque and that abolishing cheques "would be horrendous."

The Echo will keep you informed of developments. Do you have any comments?

Contact: Brendan McKeown, Dudley CVS Information Officer. Tel: 01384 267411

E-mail: support@dudleycvs.org.uk



Transforming Social Care

Over sixty delegates attended the first Transforming Social Care Stakeholder Conference on February 22nd. The event brought together representatives from provider organisations and the voluntary sector together with colleagues from Local Authority and the Primary Care Trust to discuss the implications that transforming social care will have for sector. Most time was spent on workshops discussions; this produced many questions for LA colleagues. Dudley CVS Chief Officer, Andy Gray, who chaired the conference, confirmed that these are being developed into an action plan and that a follow up session is being planned for July. See the next Dudley CVS Echo for further details.



Osteoporosis Explained

Some 3 million men and women currently living in Britain are thought to be affected by Osteoporosis. On this basis, the number in Dudley Borough is estimated to be over 60,000.

Most people only discover they have Osteoporosis when they suffer a bone fracture, normally as a consequence of a relatively minor accident. While osteoporosis mainly affects the over 50s, there is an increasing number of younger people being diagnosed.

Halesowen-based Ken Strike is a volunteer with the National Osteoporosis Society; he presents 30 minute awareness talks on osteoporosis and guidance how best to avoid or minimise its effects. Ken's time is free, there is just a 40p per mile travelling expense.

For further information call Ken on **0121 550 7900**

E-mail: strike@blueyonder.co.uk

Website: www.nos.org.uk



Anyone for Painting or Yoga?

There is a lot going on these days at the Nine Locks Community Centre in Hill Street, Brierley Hill. On Friday mornings the Painting & Arts Group welcomes both novice and more experienced artists to improve their artistic skills in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The two hour session begins at 9.45am and the cost is just £1.50. On Monday mornings at 10.00am and Thursday evenings at 7.30pm there's a chance to relieve stress and anxiety with a one hour session of simple yoga under the guidance of yoga instructor, Marie Willets. Both ladies and gentlemen are welcome and the cost is £3.00 per person, per session.



Paul's Downing Street Date

Local Barnardo's charity worker, Paul Powell, enjoyed a very special evening when he was a guest of Prime Minister, Gordon Brown and Mrs. Sarah Brown at Downing Street recently.

Paul was nominated to attend the Community Heroes Reception by Sylvia Heal, MP for Halesowen & Rowley Regis, in recognition of his work with Barnardo's Dudley Community Routes Project.

Paul Powell said: "It was a great experience. I was very grateful to be given the opportunity to profile the community-based work Barnardo's does with young people in the Midlands and around the country."



Sylvia Heal MP, Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Paul Powell at 10 Downing Street.

Do you have a success story with an interesting photograph you would like to share with other Echo readers? Contact Brendan McKeown, Information Officer . **Tel: 01384 267411** **E-mail: support@dudleycvs.org.uk**



Green Communities

Whatever your thoughts are on climate change, there can be little doubt we all need to do our bit to save dwindling natural energy resources. The Green Communities programme from the Energy Saving Trust offers help to volunteer organisations and local communities to cut carbon emissions and **SAVE MONEY**.

Free enrolment as a Green Communities member enables

organisations to access exclusive advice and information, training,

expert consultancy services on energy projects and applying for funding. Visit website:

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/community_or

call free on 0800 848 0077.



Run for Fun (and charity)

Dudley Ladies Running Club is offering a chance for women and girls to get fitter - and hopefully go on to help raise money for a cancer charity. The club begins a special ten-week *Beginners Running Course* on the 20th April at Wombourne Leisure Centre with the aim of encouraging women to take part in the *Race for Life* cancer awareness events. Ladies of all ages and fitness levels can join the course. Rita Vanes has been organising the courses for fifteen years and she is confident most ladies can achieve the objective of being able to run three miles after the ten weeks. "Because it is an all-women's group everyone is in the same boat, we laugh, we joke and we have fun, while all the time building confidence and fitness levels." For further information, contact Rita Vanes on **01384 832168** E-mail: rita@dudleyladies.co.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

Cracking the Code (England)

Cracking the Code is a bursary Scheme from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) to improve governance within third sector infrastructure organisations. The scheme offers up to £500 to improve the way that community and voluntary organisation are led and governed. The type of activities that could be funded include: organising a Board away day; attend training on the latest legal updates or the roles and responsibilities of board members; improving an organisation's recruitment and induction systems; holding a stakeholder forum to improve strategic planning; and or carrying out a governance review. In return for the bursary NCVO will ask organisations to write a case study and develop a method to share the knowledge and experiences with other in the local area. The deadline for applications is the 31st March 2010..

www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/crackingthecode

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

An early reminder that 30th September 2010 is the deadline for nominations for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Voluntary groups who have a proven record of providing direct benefits to their local area over three or more years are eligible. Two years ago, Pedmore Senior Citizens won an award.

For more information follow the link: [/www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/UKgovernment/Honoursawardsandmedals/TheQueensAwardforVoluntaryService/DG_181020](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/UKgovernment/Honoursawardsandmedals/TheQueensAwardforVoluntaryService/DG_181020)



Can you help Children Learn to Read?

Volunteer Reading Help (VRH) Black Country is offering a training course for new volunteer reading helpers. Volunteer reading helpers provide much needed support to primary school children who are struggling with reading. However, more volunteers are urgently needed for the next academic term starting in May. The course takes place over two days on April 21st & 22nd and covers how children learn to read, selecting children's books, the importance of playing games, working in a primary school and child protection policies. Volunteers need to commit to one year of reading with children twice a week during term time. All reading sessions take place in primary schools and are on a one-to-one basis.

For more information contact Linda on 0845 450 0339, email

linda.hinde@vrh.org.uk or visit www.blackcountry@vrh.org.uk