

Changes at Dudley Council

Dudley Council is undergoing its most radical restructuring since the authority was created in 1974.

The 6 directorates that made up Dudley Council's structure (Chief Executives; Finance, ICT and Procurement; Law and Property; Children's Services; Adult, Community and Housing Services; and Urban Environment) will become 3, each headed by a strategic director, in a move that cuts senior management positions from 22 to 11, saving approximately £1million.

The new directorates, together with their subsections which are each headed by a chief officer, are:

- **Resources and transformation:** incorporating corporate and customer services and finance and legal services;
- **People services:** covering child services, adult social care and health and wellbeing; and
- **Environment, economy and housing:** consisting of environmental services, planning and economic development and housing.

The new structure sees Sarah Norman taking up the position of Dudley Council's Chief Executive. Since taking the post on 19th January, Sarah Norman has been visible on Twitter (@SarahNormanCX), interacting with local authority services and the general public to understand what people find most important to the life and economy of Dudley borough.

Dudley CVS Chief Officer, Andy Gray, will be meeting Sarah Norman this month to discuss the challenges ahead for the voluntary and community sector, and to have a full and frank exchange of ideas for working together to create strong, vibrant and caring communities across Dudley borough.

Dudley CVS and Dudley Council have also jointly established the Relationship Management Group, bringing together Council leaders and representatives from the voluntary and community sector. The group aims to respond to the challenges faced across both sectors and to grasp opportunities together. Visit www.mftdudley.wordpress.com to learn more.

Dudley Council's cabinet met to consider the final budget proposals for 2015-16 on 25th February. You can find the report submitted to the cabinet and minutes of the meeting at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/l6w8twm>.



Dudley MBC Chief Executive, Sarah Norman

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AVAILABLE IN LARGE
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Visit our website

www.dudleycvs.org.uk

State of the Sector: findings of Dudley CVS's survey

In autumn 2014, Dudley CVS carried out an in-depth survey of its members. 102 organisations and groups responded, and the results have been analysed by Dudley CVS's national body NAVCA. The findings from this survey are included in this Echo in a fun, pictorial pull out poster. Readers of our electronic Echo can view the poster at <http://tinyurl.com/lpxff28>

On 24th March, 1:30–4pm, Dudley CVS will be hosting a State of the Sector CoLab Enquiry, giving voluntary and community organisations the opportunity to discuss the results of the survey and plan for the future. The session will present findings from the survey, and invite groups to reflect on these and bring their own experiences and ideas to thinking around what Dudley CVS and others can do in response. To book a place visit www.colabengquiry2015.eventbrite.co.uk or contact Kate Green on 01384 573381. Email: buildingblocks@dudleycvs.org.uk

New Urgent Care Centre set to open

Dudley CCG & Dudley Group Foundation Trust are pleased to confirm that the new Urgent Care Centre for Dudley will be opening at Russells Hall Hospital as planned on the 1st April 2015.

The Walk-in Centre at Holly Hall will close on the 31st March 2015. From this date, all patients who think they have an emergency medical problem should go to the Urgent Care Centre, accessed via the Emergency Department Reception at Russells Hall Hospital.

The new service provided by GP-led Malling Health will continue to offer 'walk-in' appointments for patients in urgent need of advice and treatment. On arrival patients will be assessed and directed either back to their own GP or other relevant services, seen by a GP if treatment is needed there and then or referred to the Emergency Department if appropriate. This will ensure patients are seen more quickly and reduce pressure on the Emergency Department.

GP out of hours service will also be part of the new Urgent Care Centre, on NHS 111.

Dr Steve Mann, said, "We are confident this will offer a real improvement in care for all patients. Dudley people told us that a single point of access for urgent care, 24 hours a day was important. This new centre will make things simpler and provide improved care for people who are in need of urgent care. If anyone is not sure which service to access they should call NHS 111."



Support Dudley's tobacco strategy and get £100 for your group

Healthwatch Dudley is inviting ten local organisations to help them run focus groups on the use of tobacco and e-cigarettes. £100 to cover the costs of room hire and refreshments is available for groups that get involved. Each one-hour session will need to take place before the end of March and should involve a minimum of eight local people.

Focus groups can be stand alone events, or part of something that is already happening such as a youth group, lunch club or coffee morning. Healthwatch Dudley will assist with each session and everyone who takes part will be expected to complete a brief survey.

A diverse range of views from smokers and non-smokers will be included and the discussions and survey results will feed into the Dudley Public Health tobacco strategy.

Contact Deb on 01384 267427 or email deb@healthwatchdudley.co.uk to put your group forward or to find out more.



in Dudley and Netherton - by Terry Gee, Locality Link Officer

Dudley and Netherton has had a great start. Here are the successes so far:

- Received **47 referrals** from across four GP surgeries;
- **Patients referred** to many organisations that can benefit their health and wellbeing;
- Many others on top of those 47 wish to **volunteer and train in self-management** for long term health conditions, opportunities that will really **improve their quality of life**;
- **True integration in action:** Home visits were made jointly with staff from other organisations, including mental health and community nurses.

In each locality, locality multi-disciplinary team meetings (LMDT) convene a lead GP, the district nurse and representatives from mental health, adult social care and the voluntary and community sector to maintain a collaborative approach. Over the coming months our LMDT will consider the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of each of the areas we represent.

Over the next couple of months, I will focus on forging stronger relationships with GPs from surgeries located in some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in Dudley. This is to ensure that I can support some of the most marginalised and vulnerable individuals within our communities to become more involved, connected and active. Together with the other elements of the integrated health and social care team, I hope to build strong relationships with the practices that serve these areas and to support individuals to improve the quality of their lives.



To learn more about integration and the LMDTs, view a short film featuring Locality Link Officer Wendy Bains at: <http://tinyurl.com/m4963se>

The People's Network



New People's Network for adult social care

Healthwatch

Dudley has teamed up with Dudley Council to host regular events for networking with positive people with similar interests in adult social care. The new People's Network will:

- Be a space for discussions and knowledge sharing about local services;
- Inform policies and influence what local services look like;
- Give real opportunities to feed back to decision makers;
- Involve people in testing the accuracy and readability of public documents before they go live;
- Invite people to bring and share powerful stories, journeys and experiences.

A launch event will take place on **11th March, 11am-1.30pm**, where people will be invited to plan the focus of the next two network events. The network is for people who access or provide services or those who care for people who do. Everyone is welcome!

For more information visit:

healthwatchdudley.co.uk, call 03000 111 001 or visit

www.peoplesnetwork.eventbrite.co.uk/ to book a place.

In a nutshell...



The Home Office is inviting organisations that work with or represent people who might be affected by the Right to Rent scheme to take part in a survey at <http://tinyurl.com/n2hubm> by **15th March 2015**

The Black Country Partnership for Care annual conference will be held on **Monday 23rd March** at Quality Hotel, Dudley. The event will focus on the Care Act. To book, visit <http://tinyurl.com/lptvixn>

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner is seeking nominations for outstanding citizens and community projects by **31st March 2015**. To nominate, visit <http://tinyurl.com/mnnyrb>

POWER TO CHANGE

Power to Change is an independent charitable trust

endowed with £150M from the Big Lottery and hopes to bring £1.5bn of additional resources to support community businesses. Grants above £50,000 are available (for working capital/asset purchases) to charities/social enterprises that are led by local people aiming to improve social and economic prospects in their area. Applicants must have plans to become self-sustaining.

Apply at any time. Start by registering interest on the Power to Change website www.thepowertochange.org.uk/about

Maurice Wohl Charitable Foundation

This funder has the following priorities:

- Care, welfare and support of children (including education), older people and those with disabilities;
- Health, welfare and medical services;
- Relief of poverty, indigence and distress;
- Support of the arts.

Applications can be made at any time. For more information, contact Diane Morgan:
Tel: 020 7383 5111

E-mail: diane.morgan@wohl.co.uk

Address: 2nd Floor, Fitzrovia House, 153-157 Cleveland Street, London W1T 6QR

The Noel Buxton Trust has a long-standing concern for the welfare of families and prisoners, focusing grants on work that does not easily attract funding from other sources. The trust supports small grassroots registered charities in the following 2 areas:

- 1) Family grants concentrating on domestic abuse where problematic relationships between adults can result in a pervasive impact on children that can affect them into adulthood. Trustees will consider projects that work with survivors and/or perpetrators, providing grants up to £5,000 for a maximum of 3 years.
- 2) Penal grants aimed at the rehabilitation of offenders for the benefit of both the offender and society as a whole with the following grants available:
 - One off up to £3,000 for projects maintaining relationships between prisoners/their families or for work supporting volunteers within the prison community.
 - Up to £4,000 a year for 2/3 years to help in the sustainability of a programme or activity.

Applications can be submitted at any time. For more information see website

www.noelbuxtontrust.org.uk/2012whatwefund.htm



Esmée Fairbairn Merger Fund



This fund is for organisations in the early phases of considering a merger and are:

- consulting on pre-merger issues including feasibility work;
- having consultation with staff/beneficiaries/members/other stakeholders;
- facilitating discussions with the potential merger partner/s on governance, planning, financial, legal, HR or communications.

Applicants to the fund need to be at, or close to, the preliminary stage of discussions with an identified potential merger partner (or partners) and can apply at any time for a grant up to £15,000.

For more information, contact:

E-mail: applications@esmeefairbairn.org.uk

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/k7auwa9>

Ahrendts-Couch Family Foundation UK

The Foundation, which originates in the USA, is interested in the relief of poverty, advancement of education and the promotion of health. They have a particular focus on organisations based on the Christian faith, helping:

- homeless people; or
- socially/economically disadvantaged children and young people.

Apply any time by writing to Gregg Couch (Trustee) at First Floor, 236 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8HB

Social and Sustainable Capital



Community Investment Fund

Organisations providing essential support and services to improve the wellbeing of local residents can apply for investment £250,000-£1M. The Fund aims to:

- develop the local economy;
- create positive social change for all individuals in the community;
- improve the quality of life of people who are vulnerable and disadvantaged;
- enhance community engagement and cohesion by empowering people to develop locally-determined solutions to challenges and opportunities.

Applicants must be community-led organisations with a neighbourhood focus and a clear social mission. Also they should be able to demonstrate how they will repay the investment.

Applications can be submitted at any time by completing a contact form to access the expression of interest.

For more information, contact:

Tel: 020 7842 7731

E-mail: info@socialandsustainablecapital.com

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/mdcts3b>

Buttle UK – Estranged Young People

Offers funding (up to £2,000) to address the needs of estranged young people (aged 16-20) who have found themselves in difficult situations because their relationship with their family has broken down. Grants can be used to enable these young people access education, employment or training, help them settle in secure, safe and comfortable accommodation or maintain positive emotional and physical wellbeing.

Applications can be made at any time, but must be made in collaboration with the young person and their support worker.

For more information, contact:

Tel: 020 7828 7311

E-mail: info@buttleuk.org

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/lxpfycy>

COMIC RELIEF

Comic Relief's main grant programme has four funding themes as follows:

- 1) Better Futures to improve vulnerable young people's lives;
- 2) Healthier Finances to tackle financial poverty;
- 3) Safer Lives to reduce violence, abuse and exploitation;
- 4) Fairer Society to ensure people overcome inequality.

The minimum grant available is £10,000 with no upper limit. However the majority of grants will fall between £20,000 and £40,000 per year. There is an eligibility checker to complete on the website before applying and there are no deadlines.

For more information, contact:

Tel: 020 7820 2000

E-mail: info@comicrelief.com

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/o383d6t>

The Last Post Project

Last year, between 4th and 18th November, over 250 communities hosted events where the Last Post was played in a variety of styles and on a variety of instruments to remember someone in that community.

The project returns in April to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli (20th-26th April 2015), giving communities the chance to remember the impact that the War had on their area and to play music from the era as a mark of commemoration.

Community groups can register now to access:

- up to £100 towards expenses for commemorative events;
- special families and young people resource pack containing archive materials and activities;
- music, lyrics and backing tracks for British and worldwide songs from 1915;
- support from Superact's network of Regional Managers.

For more information, contact Nicola Toms:

Tel: 01172 140366

E-mail: nicola@superact.org.uk

Website: www.superact.org.uk/thelastpost

Social Finance: Part 4 of 7 Crowdfunding and community shares

This is where many people contribute (usually) small amounts to support organisations/projects. In some cases these "contributions" are loans that can attract interest payments.

Crowdfunding is usually raised through an online platform (BuzzBnk/CrowdMission/Kickstarter) and typical amounts generated are £2,000-£50,000. Contributors will expect the cause they are supporting to be a success and in return they would expect to be rewarded with some non-financial benefits such as something associated with the organisation (maybe an invite to an event or merchandise). They may also expect to receive all (or some) of their money back if finance is pledged as a loan rather than a donation. The key to this is that investors are patient and also a benefit is that their contributions are evidence of their support for what you are doing/the need for your work.

For further information on crowdfunding:

- Nesta is a great starting point. It has lots of information on its website, as well as a blog to give you some further guidance about whether crowdfunding is right for you: www.nesta.org.uk/project/crowdfunding
- Crowding In, which has a useful FAQ on the topic, as well as a directory to help you choose the right crowdfunding platform for you: www.crowdingin.com
- Useful guide to crowdfunding and some hints and tips for getting started, choosing a platform and making an engaging pitch: <http://tinyurl.com/kctbd4t>
- A summary of crowdfunding platforms available to UK charities: <http://tinyurl.com/khngfqb>

Community Shares tend to attract more funding (still small amounts) with the average around £200,000 (some issues have raised close to £2M). Schemes are supported by web platforms such as Microgenius. Shareholders have a stake in the organisation and would hope to get some of their money back. However success of the venture is more important to them and again patience is key as well as evidencing the need for the organisation's work/projects through the number of shareholders.

The main drawback to both of these schemes is the amount of time it could take to generate the level of funding required. However a sense of community is evidenced through the amounts raised.

See the following website for further information:

Microgenius - www.microgenius.org.uk



IdeasTap – Accelerator Crowdfunding Platform

This new commission-free crowdfunding platform is aimed at creative people to get their ideas off the ground.

In order to access Accelerator, project creators must become IdeasTap members (no charges, free to join) so they can raise project funding for a creative endeavour with a fixed timeline and a clear outcome. All Accelerator projects must fall into one of the many categories (see website for full details).

Each month IdeasTap will select up to two Accelerator projects and pledge £500 to help each of them reach their target. See website for more information www.ideastap.com/crowdfunding/newproject





Volunteer and blogger, Susan Perks

A volunteer's perspective

Since launching in February 2013, the Volunteering Counts blog has been very popular with over 18,000 views in 2014 and 3,412 since January 1st 2015!

Volunteer Centre Development Officer, Eileen Fielding, was keen to make it a source of diverse information to meet the needs of both volunteers and volunteer-involving groups. Eileen says, "Then I had a flash of inspiration. Why not invite a local volunteer to share their volunteering experience in a series of blog posts, charting the highs and lows of their journey?"

That regular blog from a volunteer's perspective was born on 7th February after Susan Perks, who's selflessly volunteered for many organisations over the last 12 months, offered to chart her journey.

Extracts from Susan's guest blog, 'The Perks of Volunteering':

"...if I can inspire just 1 person to take up volunteering, then my work is done, for that single person will then go on to create their own story and in turn inspire a few people of their own."

"What you learn whilst volunteering cannot be taught on a training session or in the classroom, for what you learn comes from within, and once you realise what your potential really is, it only becomes a matter of time before you attract the right job."

And some of the reaction on Twitter!

You can follow Susan and Eileen's stories on www.volunteeringcounts.org.uk



Volunteering marketplace

On Tuesday 10th February, Dudley CVS hosted a volunteering marketplace where organisations looking for volunteers could meet local people interested in volunteering.

- **19 organisations** attended with diverse opportunities on offer;
- All the potential volunteers felt that they had found good opportunities at the event;
- One group **gained 8 potential volunteers** on the day.

More regular events are being planned and will be announced in future editions.

Achieving a quality standard for involving your volunteers

Investing in Volunteers (IiV) is the UK quality standard recognising good practice in an organisation's volunteer management.

Funding

The Lloyds Bank Foundation has agreed to include IiV as part of its Enhance 'grants plus' programme. The Enable grant (which would fund organisations through IiV) will provide support to help strengthen charities which meet the programme aim, helping them to deliver their mission more effectively. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/lwlddjv>

Support to achieve

Dudley CVS Volunteer Centre is your local Advisor to support you to achieve this Quality Standard, so contact Eileen if you would like more information.



For more information about anything on this page, please contact Eileen Fielding on 01384 573381 or email: eileenfielding@dudleycvs.org.uk

How can we help?

DUDLEY CVS

works with all community and voluntary groups, however small or large the organisation. We work with a range of partners, putting us at the forefront of voluntary and community sector representation.

KEEP UP TO DATE

Visit our website www.dudleycvs.org.uk to find out about new developments affecting the voluntary sector, locally and nationally.

BECOME A MEMBER

Membership is free to any voluntary and community organisation operating in Dudley. Sign up today and start enjoying a range of services and support.

SOURCING FUNDING

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

SPECIALIST HELP

Dudley CVS offers support tailored to suit your specific needs. Our Core Service Officers have years of experience available to local organisations. Help is wide ranging and includes, among other services: community engagement; enterprise development; asset management; business planning; legal structures and conflict resolution.

GROUP DEVELOPMENT

Established larger organisations can sign up to our **Building Blocks** organisational development toolkit. New, emerging and developing small groups can receive expert one-to-one guidance through our **Route Map** programme.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Dudley CVS has officers dedicated to the needs of children and young people, families and those organisations and professionals working with children in Dudley

VOLUNTEERING

Dudley CVS Volunteer Centre provides all the expertise that would-be volunteers and volunteer managers might need. Guidance and training on managing, legislation recruitment and retaining volunteers is available all year round. We can also match up those seeking to volunteer to those groups looking to recruit volunteers.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

With health services under review, our assigned support officers are in much demand by both services providers and service users.

PUBLICITY

Our marketing and communications officers can help local groups to raise their profile and maximise their promotional needs. Advice on producing newsletters, leaflets promotional materials and media relations.

ADMIN SUPPORT

Voluntary groups requiring ad hoc or regular support with learning basic computer skills, printing, mailings, book-keeping, payroll etc. can use Dudley CVS admin services at very competitive rates.

CAN'T SEE WHAT YOU NEED?

Call the number below.

For additional information about all CVS services contact:

Telephone: 01384 573381

E-mail: info@dudleycvs.org.uk