

IN THIS ISSUE: CHARITY HEADS, NEW NAME FOR PRIMARY CARE TRUST, COMMUNITY CARE FORUM MEETING DATE, CARERS TOGETHER, INDEPENDENT EXAMINATIONS

inter-ACTION

RCVDA
Leading
the Way

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RCVDA



Well Done John!

John Hawkins, Community Care Forum, (pictured above) completed the Great North Run on October 1st in a time of 2 hours and 45 minutes and raised over £650.00 for Action for Blind People. He would like to thank all those who sponsored him.

New Look

You will notice some changes to the Interaction. As well as the new design it now includes information from the Community Care Forum. We would appreciate any comments and also suggestions regarding what information you would like to see in the Interaction.

Charities Bill Adopted as Law

After a long journey the Charities Bill has finally received Royal Assent. This means that the Bill has become the Charities Act 2006 and is now law.

The Charities Act 2006 will provide a modern framework under which charities in England and Wales will operate. The Act will reform charity law and regulation to:

- enable charities to administer themselves more efficiently and be more effective;
- improve the regulation of charity fundraising, and reduce regulation on the sector — especially for smaller charities;
- provide a clear definition of charity with an emphasis on public benefit;
- modernise the Charity Commission's functions and powers as regulator, increase its accountability, and preserve its independence from Ministers.

The Act will be implemented in stages. The first provisions will begin to come into force in early 2007 and the whole process of implementation is expected to take between 18 and 24 months.

(Source: Grantfinder)

YouTrade (North East): New Competition Launched

This new competition aims to encourage online entrepreneurship within the North East of England. Ten budding entrepreneurs will be awarded £2,000 to set up business and trade online through e-bay. Winners will also receive extensive monitoring support and substantial PR and marketing.

Individuals who are not presently trading and are aged 18 or over on 1 January 2007 are eligible to enter.

All entrants must reside in the North East of England which includes: Tyne and Wear, Northumberland, Tees Valley and County Durham.

There is a two-stage application process. Application forms (which are available online after 18 November 2006) are submitted in the first instance and twenty shortlisted entries will be required to submit a business plan which will result in a 'Dragon's Den' style presentation to enable the judges to select the winning ten entrepreneurs.

The closing date for receipt of application forms is 11 December 2006.

New Heads of Charity

The prevention and relief of poverty
 The advancement of education
 The advancement of religion
 The advancement of health or the saving of lives
 The advancement of citizenship or community development
 The advancement of arts, heritage, culture or science
 The advancement of amateur sport
 The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality or diversity
 The advancement of environmental protection or improvement
 The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other advantage
 The advancement of animal welfare
 The promotion of the efficiency of the armed forces of the Crown
 Any other purpose which may reasonable be regarded as analogous to above including existing charity law

Village Core

Source: FINE

The Village Retail Services Association in partnership with Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Co-operative and Community Finance has announced the launch of the Village Core programme which will provide £2 million of start up funding to new Community owned shops in rural areas of England.

The funding which will be available over the next three years will provide up to £40,000 per shop. This will be made up of a mix of grant and loan funding, as well as advice from the Village Retail Services Association. Eligible applicants will include community based organisations located in rural communities of not less than 200 residents. Applications for assistance can be submitted at any time up to and including the 30th July 2009.

For further information visit the website or contact:

ViRSA, The Quadrangle, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1LH
 Tel: 01993 814377 (Ask for Donna)
 Fax: 01993 810849

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

This new legal structure promises the best of all worlds as it is:

- Incorporated
- Has limited liability

Is subject entirely to charity law – not to the Companies Acts

Registration is entirely by Charity Commission the registration creates the CIO and



Independent Examination

inter-ACTION

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RCVDA



Hello, I'm Rachel Solomon, I am the finance officer for RCVDA. I have been in post for just over a year. Having previously worked for a large chartered accountant my first year has been a bit of a learning curve, and with the support of my colleagues I have been increasing my knowledge of charity work and

As part of RCVDA support services we are now able to offer Independent Examinations to groups within Redcar & Cleveland.

Q. What is an Independent Examination and why do you need one?

The Association of Charity Independent Examiners (ACIE) defines an Independent Examination (IE) as *"an alternative to a financial full audit for smaller charities – a legally acceptable form of external scrutiny of their end of year accounts"*.

The Charity Commission states that:

It is a less onerous form of scrutiny than an audit and provides less assurance both in terms of the depth of work, which is to be carried out, and the qualification necessary to undertake such work.

(Source: www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc63.asp)

Q. Who is it available to?

At present RCVDA will only be carrying out Independent Examinations for charities with income less than £100,000

If a charities gross income and expenditure is £250,000 per year or less for the past 3 years they may elect to have an Independent Examination. However, if your gross income and expenditure is £10,000 or less then there is no requirement to be independently examined.

Q. What's involved?

An examination involves:

- A review of the accounting records kept
- Preparing a set of accounts (Receipts and Payments Accounts and Statement of Assets and Liabilities)

On completion of the Independent Examination, an examiners report will be produced.

If your books and records require additional remedial work RCVDA can offer support to enable clients to bring their financial records up to the required level.

Q. How much will it cost?

The cost of an Independent Examination will be based on annual turnover and will range from £100 to £250 for the first year.

For any further information, you can contact me on either Telephone number 01642 440571

E-mail address rachel@rcvda.org.uk

LATEST NEWS

Third Sector, Social and Economic Regeneration: Joint Review

HM Treasury and the Cabinet Office have launched a joint review into the role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration in England. This forms part of the consideration given in the Budget earlier this year to this topic and is being led by Ed Milliband MP, Minister for the Third Sector. The aims of the Review are to consider the role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration and as part of the review consideration will be given to how Government interacts with the Third Sector, recommendations will be announced as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review

Source: *Social Economy* Nov 2006

GET ON BOARD

Due to be launched in January 2007 this campaign aims to inspire more people to become trustees. Get ready by registering your trustee vacancies with Trish or by going to

www.do-it.org.uk/needvolunteers

The Governance Hub has also produced a downloadable Trustee Recruitment Toolkit available from

www.governancehub.org.uk

Prince's Trust Programme

The Prince's trust are now recruiting for their next 12 week Personal Development Course which is due to start on 22nd January 2007. Aimed at 16 – 25 year olds who are trying to get into full time education, training or employment the programme enables them to develop a variety of skills.

Contact Julie Wilson on 01287 637512 for more information

Volunteering Skills level 1—University of Teesside

This module will cover the following areas and develop the students understanding of;

- The development of volunteering and the benefits and possible disadvantages of volunteering for an organisation
- The concept and nature of volunteering and its role in relation to social policy
- The diverse range of volunteering opportunities and the statutory and legislative context for volunteering
- The structure and nature of voluntary and 'not for profit' sector organisations
- Identification and evaluation of issues relating to confidentiality, maintaining appropriate boundaries, health & safety, resources (human and physical) and support needs.
- The importance of communication skills and development of practical skills of relevance to volunteering

**For more information please contact Trish Waters On 01642 440571
trish@rcvda.org.uk**

Succeed through learning

This is a short ESF funded project that aims to provide community based Skills for Life training and support to unemployed people in Redcar & Cleveland.

The project will help individuals to “brush up” on their literacy and numeracy skills and gain nationally recognised qualifications at levels 1 & 2.

The project can offer you as a voluntary/community organisation a range of benefits which recognise and support the aims and objectives of the “Working Together Strategy”. The Project will:

- Help the development of VCS staff and its users
- Support individuals to gain qualifications in English and maths.
- Improve VCS infrastructure Help people to progress into employment, further education or training
- Provide access to free training and free resources
- Offer free support to embed best practice in long term delivery and training

If you would like to have a chat about how your organisation and users can take advantage of this project contact:

Jill Scott, Project Manager
**jill.scott@tribalgroup.co.uk mobile:
07823327634 www.move-on.org.uk**

New Entrepreneur Scholarship Programme

Source: FINE, Funding Insight

Individuals living in disadvantaged areas who are thinking of starting their own business may be eligible for support under the New Entrepreneur Scholarship Programme (NES).

It aims to provide a comprehensive package of support, mentoring and funding (of up to £1,500) in order to encourage and support the start-up and growth of new businesses in the 25% most disadvantaged Super Output Areas in England. All business ideas within reason are supported, and social enterprise ideas are particularly welcomed. Applications can be made at any time.

Contact:
National Federation of Enterprise Agencies
12 Stephenson Court
Fraser Road
Priory Business Park
Bedford
MK44 3WH

Christmas Opening hours at MIND

Day and Information Services will be open as normal over the Christmas period except for the following:
Christmas Day & Boxing Day
New Year's Day

If you need any further information please check the website @ www.randcmind.org
or phone 01642 296052

“Carers Together” Launch the Carers Emergency Card Scheme in Redcar and Cleveland

Carers know that the person they care for relies on them for vital help and support. If a carer is ever faced with an emergency they need to know that replacement care will get sorted out immediately.

What happens if:

the carer has an accident
the carer needs to go to hospital
the carer is stuck in traffic and late home
something else happens to friends and family
and the carer needs to be elsewhere?

Obviously, no-one can plan for every eventuality and there is no one answer. But, the **Carers Emergency Card Scheme** plays its part in providing carers with peace of mind.

Under this scheme the carer is assisted to draw up an emergency plan by the scheme co-ordinator at Carers Together. The plan is held by Coast & Country who provide the 24 hour response service. Carers carry a card with the Scheme telephone number and a unique identification number to avoid personal details being held on the card. If an emergency occurs the carer or someone else can call the Scheme. The person taking the call can then activate the arrangements detailed in the care plan.

It has been found that carers value the reassurance provided by such schemes, knowing that a well thought out emergency plan will be put into operation should they ever face an emergency or delay in getting home. It is also recognised that it improves carers' health and wellbeing, removing anxiety about what would happen in an emergency.

‘Talking through what would happen with the emergency card scheme worker made me plan and think about such things as where I store his medication. I felt I’d planned as much as possible after speaking to her. This gave me peace of mind.’

Karen, a carer registered with a Scheme

If you would like to register on this free scheme or would like to receive further information, then contact Denise Chambers at Carers Together on 01642 488977.



inter-ACTION

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RCVDA

Making A Difference Fund

Source: FINE research

Tees Valley Community Foundation and the Evening Gazette have together created the Making A Difference Fund which will raise money for distribution to charitable organisations and groups across the Tees Valley.

The Community Foundation administers the Fund raised by the Gazette through staff fundraising activity as well as external events. A team of Gazette employees will recommend which charities and community projects should benefit from the grants.

If you are applying for a grant for the first time or would like to speak to someone personally about your application, Community Foundation grants officers will be happy to help. Further information from:

Tees Valley Community Foundation,
Southlands Business Centre,
Ormesby Road, Middlesbrough,
TS3 0HB
Tel: 01642 314200
Fax: 01642 313700

Email: info@teesvalleyfoundation.org

Website:
www.teesvalleyfoundation.org

Advocacy Resource Exchange (ARX) New National Helpline

Advocacy Resources Exchange (ARX) is very excited to be launching the first helpline of its kind for people who need advocacy. This helpline is, supported by The Big Lottery Fund. It is hoped to launch this helpline in January 2007. Once it is up and running the service will be available Monday-Friday between 2.00pm and 5.00pm.

Telephone: 07967 622010

Email: arx@advocacyresource.net

Website: www.advocacyresource.net

City of Sunderland College

NCFE Intermediate Certificate in Equality and Diversity

This qualification aims to

Introduce the concept of equality and diversity

Highlight how stereotyping and labelling affects individuals and group

Outline the effects of prejudice and discrimination

Examine the rights and responsibilities of individuals and action to help and support others

Promote good practice in the community and/or workplace

For further information on this **FREE** Certificate contact Michelle Elliott on 0191 511 6831 or 07759 561 342 or email michelle.elliott@citysun.ac.uk

Looking for Lottery funding

Then visit www.lotteryfunding.org.uk

One point of access for information about all Lottery funding programmes in the UK.

Apply to Round One of BT Community Connections Award Scheme

Since 2000, the scheme has awarded more than 4,600 internet-ready PCs to community and voluntary organisations. In 2006/7 over 1300 awards will be made to groups who can demonstrate how a PC and internet connection will benefit their work and the local community.

Applying for an award

Log on to www.btcommunityconnections.com for an application form. You can view case studies of previous winners and judges' top tips to help you complete your application.

Applications should be submitted by Thursday 15 February 2007

Every application will be assessed and those short listed will be judged by a regional panel in England.

Next Community Care Forum Meeting

Tuesday 9th January, 10.00 am – 12.00
Sunnyfield House, Guisborough

Confirmed Speaker:

Sue Reeves, Carers Together in Redcar and Cleveland

Tees Valley Counselling Trust

Tees Valley Counselling Trust (TVCT) is a local charity providing free counselling for adults who have a disability, an ongoing illness or caring responsibilities. Chronic illness creates a variety of physical difficulties but it also has practical, social and emotional implications. When someone is diagnosed with a life changing condition it touches every aspect of their lives and it is not always easy to talk to a family member.

Based in Norton Community Resource Centre they operate across the whole of Tees Valley. Timely intervention such as that offered by TVCT is necessary to stop people developing a mental illness, or halt and reverse the process of a debilitating condition. If you are interested in this service please contact Linda or Sharon on 01642 654555

TVCT are launching a new Children's Counselling project for children aged 5-16, for which they have received 3 years funding from Children in Need.

TVCT has a purpose designed play therapy room. Play is a child's natural way of learning, exploring their world and often their natural way of communicating therefore play therapy is offered where appropriate, alternatively some children will prefer to talk through their worries.

If you are interested in this service for yourself or would like to refer someone please call Victoria on 01642 654555.

The new address is:
Norton Community Resource Centre
58-60 Somerset Road
Norton
Stockton-on-Tees
TS20 NR2
Email: tvct03@hotmail.com
www.teesvalleycounsellingtrust.co.uk

Got a question or concern about NHS services?

If you have a comment, query or concern about the care you or a relative are receiving, or if you want to ask a question about NHS services, then you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). PALS provides confidential advice and support. You can contact PALS on freephone 0800 013 0500 or email



inter-ACTION

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RCVDA

Have you chosen and booked your hospital appointment?

Choose and Book is a new service that allows patients to choose your hospital or clinic and book an appointment with a specialist. When you and your GP agree you need to see a specialist, you will be able to choose from at least four hospitals or clinics, and book an appointment time to suit you.

Have you used Choose and Book? If so, we want to hear about your experiences, whether good or bad, to help us evaluate and improve the service. Please call the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) to give us your feedback on 0800 013 0500.

Health Matters from Redcar & Cleveland PCT

Redcar and Cleveland Primary Care Trust (PCT) was established on October 1st 2006. This new PCT covers the area previously covered by Langbaugh PCT (Redcar, Marske, Saltburn, Guisborough, Skelton, Brotton and Loftus) and the wards of South Bank, Eston, Teesville, Grangetown, Ormesby and Normanby, which were previously covered by Middlesbrough PCT.

The day-to-day primary care health services - GPs, dentistry, pharmacy and optometry will remain unaffected by this change, as will all community services, such as district nursing, health visiting, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

All services in, and based at, the three Primary Care Hospitals in Guisborough, Brotton and Redcar also remain unaffected by the change. The reason for the new name is to accommodate the new area, which is now fully co-terminus with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and is as a result of the national consultation, 'Commissioning a Patient-Led NHS' which



www.rcvda.org.uk

inter-ACTION

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RCVDA



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Tel 01642 440571
Fax 01642 289177
E-mail enquiries@rcvda.org.uk
Web www.rcvda.org.uk

RCVDA 2nd Floor Craigton House
Central Terrace Redcar TS10 1DJ



A member of the National Association of Councils for Voluntary Services.
Company limited by guarantee. Registered company name: Redcar and
Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency. Registered No. 2720382.
Registered in England and Wales. Registered Office at above address.
Registered Charity No. 516233

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from
all at Redcar &
Cleveland Voluntary
Development Agency