

Contact News



Nov/Dec/Jan 09-10

Countess of Wessex Visits Deafness Resource Centre Ltd



Photo taken by Stuart Rayner

To commemorate the launch of the St Helens Deaf History Book and DVD, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Countess of Wessex visited the Deafness Resource Centre Ltd on Thursday 19th November 2009.

The Book and DVD have been researched and created especially to mark 80 years of Deaf History in St Helens since 1928.

Her Royal Highness was given a tour of the Centre, including the Chapel with its unique stained glass windows depicting images from the Bible with verses spelled out in Sign Language. She was introduced to key individuals including staff, Management Committee and regular members of the Church for Deaf People, Deaf Club, Hard of Hearing Club and Sign Language Students.

She was then presented with a copy of the Book and DVD by Peter Harvey, Treasurer, and she unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion.

Helen Fitzgerald, Chief Officer said:
"Her Royal Highness was so approachable and friendly, and so interested in the people she met. We are all very grateful that she was able to visit us on this special occasion."

It's a world record!



408 converted kicks in 1 hour!!!

Thatto Heath Crusaders attempted the record in May 2009 and they more than beat the record they trounced it! 408 kicks in 1 hour with the previous record being 127!

Lee Briers came down and opened with the first kick (which can't count) and the lads had kicked 127 in about 20 minutes! They continued to build on their success and did the club proud.

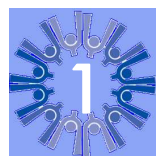
Well done to all the crusaders and a big thank you to all the volunteers and involved!



St Helens CVS is
Core funded by



St. Helens Council



Gift Aid - Get everything you need to know about Gift Aid on CD-ROM!

HMRC has recently announced changes to the time limits for making Gift Aid repayment claims to bring them into line with all other time limits at four years. There are no transitional arrangements, so the four-year limit will apply strictly from 1 April 2010 onwards, for both charitable trusts and charitable companies.

HMRC Charities has produced a 'Gift Aid Toolkit' on CD-ROM to help your charity or CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) run an effective Gift Aid scheme.

The toolkit offers a beginner's guide to the Gift Aid scheme and provides a step-by-step guide to help you:

- How to run an effective Gift Aid scheme
- Apply to HMRC to make Gift Aid repayment claims
- Understand the rules of the Gift Aid scheme
- Fill in the Gift Aid repayment forms
- Understand what records you need to keep

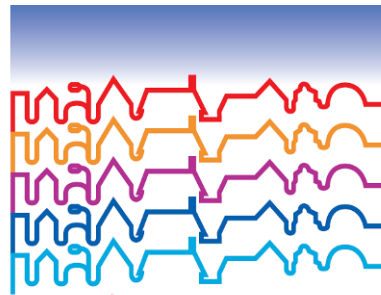
To order your free copy, telephone the HMRC Charities Helpline on 0845 302 0203 and select option 6. The helpline is open from 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Alternatively, we have some copies available. If you're in the town centre at anytime, call in at Tontine House and collect one.

If you need any general advice and guidance on Gift Aid please contact our Community Accountant Jane Williams, call her on 01744 457102, or email jwilliams@sthelenscvcs.org.uk

gmcas

Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service



Listen

Local information and support to empower networks

LISTEN – We're talking to you!!!

LISTEN is a joint project between St Helens Community Empowerment Network and St Helens CVS.

The project, funded by the Area Based Grants, will be supporting

existing networks and creating new networking opportunities to enable local groups and organisations have more of an input in the decision-making process for the borough.

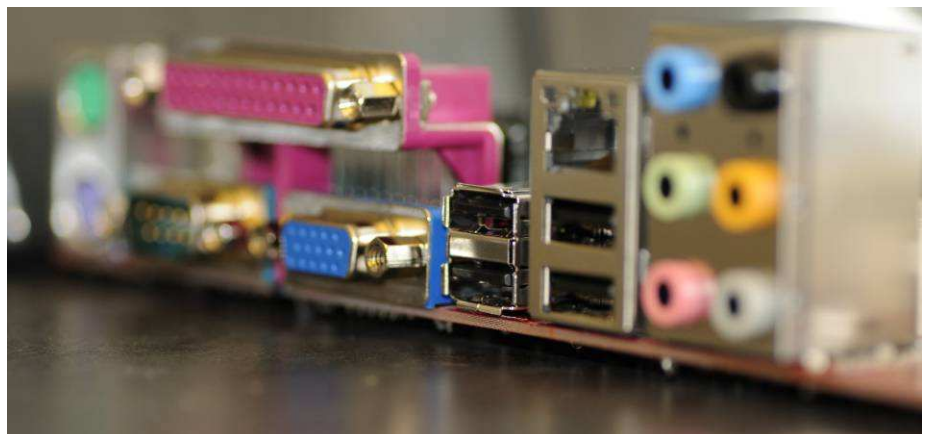
The LISTEN team will support networks and groups to share information, pass on best practise, secure and create resources and ensure that the sector's voice is heard.

For more detailed information about the team and the work it is doing, visit the LISTEN blog <http://listentothelens.wordpress.com>

Our website

www.listentothelens.org.uk

Will be up and running at the end of December, or find us on Facebook – search 'St Helens Listen'



Trouble with IT? – New service from your CVS

It seems technology within organisations and groups gets ever more complex each day, and as we use it more and more in our work, the need for support when things go wrong does to!

However, help is now close at hand. We are pleased to announce that St Helens CVS now has a qualified IT Technician who can offer a wide range of services to help Voluntary and Community organisations across St Helens make best use of their IT. These services include:

- Advice on what to buy

- Telephone and on-site technical support
- Data backup
- General fault-finding and repair
- Hardware and software installation
- Upgrades
- Optimising systems for better performance
- Protection against virus and spyware
- Help drawing up ICT policies.

To get support, or information about the service, please contact Emma Arnold, ICT Officer, on 01744 457104, or email her at earnold@sthelenscvcs.org.uk.

A word from our Chief Officer

Hello readers and welcome to the new look Contact newsletter...

Here at the CVS we have been reviewing the way we communicate with our members, partners and stakeholders. You may have noticed an increase in our communication to you by email, which is mainly due to the time intensity of information that we receive and you need to know about.

Our Contact Newsletter will be distributed less frequently on a quarterly basis, but will still be packed with the usual information and resources that you have said you like to see and is still a great way for you to communicate your news to other members of the sector.

If you have anything you want to contribute, please send it through to Cathy Morris, on the Listen Team. **Email cmorris@sthelenscvcs.org.uk** for our February – April 2010 edition. If you don't receive our email updates and want to in the future, then please contact **Lynne Daffern on 01744 457100 or ldaffern@sthelenscvcs.org.uk** to be added to the email distribution list.

Sowing The Seeds of Success and St Helens CVS AGM

Thank you to all of you who attended our AGM and conference in September. The bite-size workshops on organisational change complimented our focus on creating a thriving third sector and our current training programme, so please take advantage of what we have to offer.

Future Jobs Fund

With this initiative going live from the 1st October this year, we are encouraging those of you who have short-term employment opportunities to get involved.

To find out more about this please go to Page 6.

Farewell and Hello

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish Michelle Eccles, who worked on the Supported Volunteering Project, good luck in her new post with the Healthy Living Initiative.

Welcome also to our new LISTEN team staff members: Andrea, Cathy, Cath and Jen who have joined us to develop the networking hubs linked to the Local Strategic Partnership themes. For more information on how to contact them and find out more about their work see Page 9.

*Regards,
Sally Yeoman*



CSV MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

we did our bit!

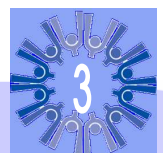
The Listen project had its public launch on the 29th October with a marquee on Church square in St Helens. There were representatives from various Community organisations who were invited to show off their services to the St Helens people, as part of national 'Make a difference Day'.

Here are some of the pictures of the event.



Also there were Children's consultations, asking them 'Who listens to you?', facepainting and a mask painting competition.

The Youth Action Team sponsored the event, and they thrilled the children with the introduction of a very dapper 'Mr Hedgehog'. The Listen team would like to thank all the stallholders who braved the sunny, but chilly weather and made it such a great day.



Are you making the most of your staff?

Earlier this year the Learning and Skills Council, the Department for Work and Pensions and the North West Development Agency announced their joint response to support businesses on Merseyside through the economic climate. The conclusion: *The key to survival is training*.

Helen France the Area Director of Greater Merseyside LSC at the time said "organisations that continue to train during the recession are more likely to survive and will be better placed for the upturn".

But why is workforce development so important?

Getting the right skills in place can make your organisation more efficient, can save you time and money and increase employee satisfaction and motivation.

In an ideal world you would hire a member of staff and they will stay with you forever. Unfortunately people evolve, they want their knowledge and experience broadened and they need new challenges. The VCF sector is better placed than most to offer their staff the variety of developing and emerging job roles as different projects and contracts are awarded and often staff may wear a variety of "hats".

Identifying those emerging skill needs and allowing your staff and volunteers to learn those skills rather than buying in the services or hiring new staff will not only save you money in the long run, but will fulfil that natural desire to learn and will keep your staff motivated, and more committed to your organisation.

But training costs money, and unfortunately not all contracts factor in a training budget.

Make a commitment to support your staff to develop their skills and we will help you fund it.

VOLA currently hold a contract to support VCF Sector organisations in Merseyside to sign up to the Skills Pledge.

As an employer, you make a voluntary public commitment to up-skill your staff to reach a minimum of a level 2 qualification and to continue to support training and development of your workforce.

Sounds expensive, but by signing the Skills Pledge you will have ongoing support from Skills Advisers at Business Link North West who will support you to access funding for any training needs that you identify throughout your organisation. They will help source the training and tell you how it can be fully or part funded.

But that's not all. VOLA hold a pot of funding, only available to the VCF Sector, which will pay for up to £1,000 worth of training for your organisation when you reach the final stage of the Skills Pledge and begin to enrol staff on courses. This can be used to fund any training that cannot be funded by other mainstream funding sources and is not mandatory or statutory for the employee's job role.

And it's not just employees that can benefit; you can also provide training for your volunteers too.

If you would like to know more about making the Skills Pledge please contact the VOLA outreach team on 0151 285 4053 or visit www.volamerseyside.org.uk

This programme is part funded by the European Union through the European Social Fund and is co-financed by the Learning and Skills Council.

Third Sector Support Events

VOLA are holding a number of events across Merseyside to present information and support available to Third Sector organisations on.

The events will include presentations about:

TaPs & Passmark – a new initiative from Merseyside Change Up to help organisations become Tender ready.

Skills Pledge Plus – a new project from VOLA supporting organisations to access funding for workforce development

Funding Advice from the Community Foundation and support for European funding from Merseyside Network for Europe.

There will also be information stands and more to be announced.

The events are taking place from 10am – 1pm, with lunch included, on the following dates:

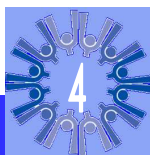
January

19th – Leasowe Millennium centre – Wirral
21st – SING Plus, Sefton
26th – Communiversity, Liverpool
28th – Knowsley CVS, Knowsley

February

2nd – Deafness Resource Centre, St Helens
10th – Waterside Lodge, Sefton
16th – TBC, Liverpool
18th – The Lauries Centre, Wirral

For more information please visit www.volamerseyside.org.uk





'BingoLotto – new TV show launches in September

A new TV show – BingoLotto - will be launched this September. Twenty per cent of the sales price of every BingoLotto Gamecard will go to good causes across the UK.

NCVO (National Council of Voluntary Organisations) and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) are both partners in BingoLotto and they will be distributing this money for good causes to their members.

NCVO agreed to be a partner in BingoLotto, stating '... we believe it has the potential to bring huge benefits to voluntary and community organisations in the UK. Not only is this a new source of funding for the sector, but it will give the organisations who receive it the freedom to decide how best it is used.'

'This money will enable voluntary groups to develop additional projects and make an even greater difference to the lives of the people and communities they work with.'

In the next few weeks NVCO will be inviting their smaller members who are eligible for this funding to register.

They have stated, '...we will expand the scheme to our larger members. But we believe it is right that, in the first instance, we ensure that funding goes to our smaller members with the lowest income.'

Eligible member organisations will be notified shortly on how to apply. **News and updates about BingoLotto can be found on the NCVO website. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/whatwedo/?id=7826>**



'The BigGive'

A great place to go if you're looking for some extra funding!

The idea is that you register your charity, or project with this website and possible donors can look for the sort of project that interests them and donate anonymously. It covers projects all over the world and people can search by geographical areas, or by types of project. They've got some big givers on board already and you might just catch someone's eye.

Registering is free, because the Reed Foundation supports the whole operation and it shouldn't take long to do, so you've nothing to lose.

One of their ideas is the BigGive vouchers system. Companies can buy these and give them to staff, customers and other contacts instead of the conventional gifts like the bottle of whisky at

CRT Bridging the Gap Small Grants £500 to £5000

A new fund is being set up to boost business in areas crippled by the collapse of coalmining and CRT is keen to work with community groups who may be eligible to apply.

Enquires are welcome from projects, which can demonstrate that they either want to develop a new project/activity, or they can show they want to improve an existing service.

Christmas. The person given the voucher can then go onto the BigGive website and donate their voucher to one of the registered groups.

You can also use their site if you want to donate yourself and they say that they are the lowest cost way of doing this. They even give you an email address to contact them if you find a cheaper way of doing it, so they must be fairly confident. There's also a good little section on how you can leave a legacy, complete with a draft codicil form you can fill in.

If you're interested, go to <http://www.thebiggive.org.uk> and give it a try.

We are very interested to see how this works out, so if you use it then let us know how you get on. You can drop us an email to jfletcher@sthelenscvs.org.uk

The Bridging the Gap grant does not require match funding and applications are processed within a maximum of 12 weeks.

Coalfields Staff are more than happy to discuss applications prior to submission and provide support to groups throughout the application process, **telephone number 01925 222066 or visit the website www.coalfield-regen.org.uk**



FUTURE JOBS FUND

DO YOU HAVE OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR ORGANISATION TO GIVE EXPERIENCE TO YOUNG PEOPLE?

Central Government are launching the Future Jobs Fund to support the creation of jobs for long term unemployed young people and others who face significant disadvantage in the labour market. From early 2010, everyone in between the ages of 18 and 24 who has been looking for work for a year will get an offer of a job, work experience, or training lasting at least 6 months.

Across Greater Merseyside, Knowsley Council (on behalf of the Mersey City Employment Strategy) were successful in bidding to run the scheme and plans are now in place on a local level through St Helens Chamber as lead organisation to roll the scheme out in St Helens.

In St Helens, there is an anticipation to create 240 jobs over the next 18 months, starting on the 1st October 2009. Any jobs created must be 'additional', meaning they could not exist without this funding; they must be jobs that will be for at least 25 hours a week and paid at least at the national minimum wage; and that they must be suitable for people aged 18-24 and who have been on Jobseeker's Allowance for ten months. St Helens will also benefit from being able to extend this to those over 25 because of its disadvantaged area status.

If you are interested, have ideas of posts that you could contribute and want to find out more, please contact either Sally or Claire at the CVS on 01744 457100 or email syeoman@sthelenscvs.org.uk or cjones@sthelenscvs.org.uk

Event Review – Big Food Debate

On the 20th October 2009- the "Big Food Debate 2".

It was a very powerful conference with many messages that are important to all of us. The top risk factors in the UK are all preventable and many are diet related. They include: smoking, high blood pressure, overweight & obesity, high cholesterol, alcohol use, physical inactivity, low fruit & vegetable intake, illicit drug use, unsafe sex and iron deficiency anaemia. Heart disease and stroke accounted for 30% of deaths in under 75s, in the Heart of Mersey area each year.

An estimated 80% of these deaths could be prevented. High salt intake can raise your blood pressure, which can triple your chances of heart disease and stroke. 75% of the salt we eat is already in the food we buy.

The bad news is that the current diet in the NW region is almost as bad as that in Scotland, and it is killing people. The good news is that your body will respond very quickly to changes in your diet and your risk of disease will reduce.

At the conference everyone agreed with the healthier diet messages in the presentations, the area of debate was: *What is the most effective approach to ensure that people change to a healthier diet and so reduce the disease incidence?*

The approach needed was summed up as "Pragmatic vs Principled". Do nutritionists determine the ideal diet and as a matter of principle, refuse to accept anything that is not correct? This is possibly unobtainable, or could organisations adopt a more pragmatic approach of smaller, more obtainable changes towards the ideal diet?

Could individuals be targeted by education programmes and food labelling, or should there be product reformation? Do organisations petition for legislation to control the food industry, such as a blanket ban on trans fats, or is a collaborative approach and voluntary agreement between major manufacturers be a better way of doing it? Such collaborations have contributed significantly to the 10% reduction in salt intake. Then there is the question, at what level should legislation occur – international, national or local area agreements? That's where even the experts disagree. In reality there is no single approach, it will require a range of policies and ultimately the self-discipline of an individual.

If you are interested to know more about the conference or would like to respond to this article, please contact Jen Hoggarth, Listen Team Tel 01744 26171, or email jhoggarth@sthelenscvs.org.uk

Call for Submissions

Do you want to promote your group, or goods or services? Then we would very much like to hear from you.

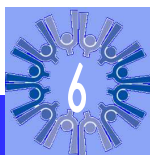
How to submit

If you would like to submit an article for this publication, or send a press release.

Please send it via email to listen@sthelenscvs.org.uk and put the word 'contact' in the subject line.

Articles published in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the official view of St Helens CVS and the information contained herein has been published in good faith. References to goods and services do not constitute an endorsement

St Helens District Council for Voluntary Services
Registered charity in England and Wales No: 1106001
Company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No: 2539153
Tontine House, 24 Church Street, St Helens Merseyside. WA10 1BD
Tel 01744 457100
Email: info@sthelenscvs.org.uk
Website: www.sthelenscvs.org.uk



Network News



Briefing...

Duty to Involve

On the first of April 2009 a new Duty to Involve comes into force for local authorities and other best value organisations across England, including all Local Authorities.

What is the purpose of the duty?

The purpose of the duty is to: 'embed a culture of engagement and empowerment. This means that authorities consider, as a matter of course, the possibilities for provision of information to, consultation with and involvement of representatives of local persons across all authority functions'

Citizen, stakeholder and service user involvement is no longer a luxury; it is now a requirement. Some Councils are well prepared and others will struggle to make the most of the opportunities presented by this new duty.

What does the duty mean in practice?

The duty is meant to cover 'routine functions, as well as significant one-off decisions'; in short this means that there are few areas where the duty does not apply. Statutory guidance also makes it clear that 'Appropriate engagement and empowerment should be embedded as standard practice throughout authorities, central to service delivery, policy and

What will Local Authorities need to demonstrate?

Authorities will need to demonstrate to regulators:

- That they understand community interests
- That information, consultation and involvement opportunities are accessible and well targeted
- That they coordinate engagement activities with partners where appropriate
- That local people know how to get involved and feel that they provide good engagement opportunities

What does the law say?

"Where a best value authority considers it appropriate for representatives of local persons (or of local persons of a particular description) to be involved in the exercise of any of its functions by being—

- (a) provided with information about the exercise of the function,
- (b) consulted about the exercise of the function, or
- (c) involved in another way, it must take such steps as it considers appropriate to secure that such representatives are involved in the exercise of the function in that way."

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Further resources:

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2007/ukpga_20070028_en_1

Statutory Guidance on the Duty:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongsafeprosperous>

Comprehensive Area Assessments (includes guidance on how the duty will be regulated):

<http://www.auditcommission.gov.uk/caa/framework.asp>

Practical Engagement Support:

<http://www.peopleandparticipation.net>

source:

<http://www.involve.org.uk/assets/Docs-2/20090424-Duty-to-Involve-pager.pdf>

The Listen Project

Earlier this year, the Government put in place 'Duty to involve'. This has meant that Local Authorities across the country have had to ensure they have steps in place to include the voice of the local community in the decisions that are being made about their area.

The local community doesn't just mean local residents; it also means local businesses, and the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Sports sector (VCFS). This is the reason that the LISTEN project was born. The project is a partnership between St Helens District Council for Voluntary Services and the St Helens Community Empowerment Network, and is funded by St Helens Council until March 2011.

LISTEN, stands for Local Information and Support to Empower Networks and came into existence in May 2009, with a team of five Outreach Workers being in post by July 2009.

This team will be providing resources and developing opportunities to enable VCFS groups and organisations access various ways to influence the decisions that are being made by public sector bodies, including the Local Authority.

In the coming months the team will be visiting groups and networks, to identify ways they can be supported. The team will be informing the VCFS sector of consultation opportunities about key strategies and plans.

The team sits on many of the local strategic partnership boards, but their aim is to ensure that there is wider VCFS sector representation on these boards. The following pages will give further opportunities to enable you to do this. **If groups, or networks would like to get in involved, please contact the team at the Listen project. Email listen@sthelenscvcs.org.uk**

Get involved!

Join a St Helens VCFS Group or Network

There are several networks in St Helens that are currently looking to recruit new membership.

Domestic Violence Network

This network is for groups, or organisations that have a particular interest in the prevention of domestic violence and/or the support of its victims. The network is currently looking at the issue of early prevention and is working closely with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership on the draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy. **If you would like to come along to one of their meetings, or join the network, please contact Tina Culshaw, Safer Communities Outreach Worker, 01744 457112, or email tculshaw@sthelenscvcs.org.uk**

Children and Young People Sector Forum.

This is a network of VCFS sector forums that have a particular interest in working with children and young people. They are doing a lot of work around participation and workforce development. **If you are interested in joining the forum, please contact Cath Lewis, Children and Young People Outreach worker, 01744 457112, or email clewis@sthelenscvcs.org.uk**

Safer Communities Sector Forum

This is a brand new network, which will look at a strategic community approach to building and sustaining safer communities. If your group has an interest in sharing and developing best practice, influencing strategic decisions and plans, we would like to invite you along to **the first meeting, which will be at 10am on Wednesday 27th January 2010 – the venue has yet to be confirmed. Contact Tina Culshaw (see above) to inform her of your interest.**

Communities and Neighbourhoods Sector Steering group

This is a group that will be looking at the best way to create better representation at the communities and neighbourhoods partnership boards. It is hoped that this steering group will forge the way for a forum, or fora, to participate in strategic plans for the area. **If you are interested in being a part of this steering group then please contact Cathy Morris, Community and Neighbourhood Outreach worker, 01744 26171, or email cmorris@sthelenscvcs.org.uk**

Disability Network St Helens

This is a relatively new network for groups and organisations who support disabled people. They have been very active since their conception in May 2009, with a calendar of events that include key speakers from Local Authority and the PCT. **If you are interested in joining this network, contact Jen Hoggarth, Healthier Communities and Older People Outreach Worker, initially, who will forward your request for a membership pack. Tel 01744 26171, or email jhoggarth@sthelenscvcs.org.uk**

St Helens CVS

I would not be forgiven if I didn't mention St Helens CVS. Annual membership will enable your group to access a full range of CVS services and discounts on room hire and other services, such as PAT testing and photocopying. There is a small fee for administration purposes, but if you are a new group, affiliated membership is *free* for your first year. **Contact Lynne Daffern, 01744 457129, or email ldaffern@sthelenscvcs.org.uk, for a membership pack, or download one from the Listen projects blog <http://listentosthelens.wordpress.com>**

If you would like to recruit for membership for your group, or network, email the details to listen@sthelenscvcs.org.uk

Places Survey

Residents across St.Helens will be asked for their views on their neighbourhoods, communities and the services provided by the Council as part of the large scale Places Survey.

St.Helens Council will send questionnaires to local residents at random, taking in a wide variety of people from different backgrounds. The responses will help councils and the Government to understand residents' views and experiences of their local area and local public services and to re-shape future services ensuring that they are targeted where they are most needed.

People who respond will be entered into a free draw to win a 1st prize for a £100 of high street vouchers and two runner up prizes of £50 of vouchers.

The survey is being conducted on behalf of the Council by Ipsos MORI (www.ipsos-mori.com). It will be sent by post to a random sample of households across St.Helens starting at the beginning of November. Completed surveys should be returned by December 18, 2009.

The survey is split into the following eight sections:

- « local public services;
- « how informed residents feel;
- « local decision-making;
- « helping out;
- « getting involved;
- « respect and consideration;
- « community safety; and
- « general questions (e.g. road maintenance satisfaction).

As the survey is random, the Council will not be able to provide copies of the survey on request. The results will be published on the Council website and in St.Helens First, early in 2010. **If you would like further information about this survey or other consultation activity, please contact Kirsty Watkinson, Consultations Manager, kirstywatkinson@sthelens.gov.uk k 01744 456958**

Source:
<http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/news/article.htm?id=2839>

Ward Committees

Other ways to get involved in your area are to attend the Ward Committees. For more information, how they are run, how to become a community advocate and how you can submit questions, can be found on the St Helens Council website

<http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/lqnl.htm?id=366#Whatward>

Dates and Venues of the Next Meetings

St. Helens North (7pm 25th January 2010)

Billinge and Seneley Green - Billinge Chapel End Primary School

Blackbrook - St. Mark's Church

Earlestown - Cross Lane Church Hall

Haydock - Haydock Wesleyan Church Hall

Moss Bank - Moss Bank Mission

Newton - Newton Community Centre

Rainford - Rainford Village Hall

Windle - Deafness Resource Centre

St. Helens South (7pm 26th January 2010)

Bold - Sutton Manor Primary School

Eccleston - Eccleston Lane Ends Primary School

Parr - Salvation Army Hall

Rainhill - Rainhill Village Hall

Sutton - Sutton Children's Centre

Thatto Heath - Nutgrove Primary School

Town Centre - Town Hall

West Park - St. Johns Church, Crossley Road

NEW Youth Volunteering opportunities coming soon

The Listen project, together with Vinolved, is to hold an event in the New Year to promote youth volunteering. If you want more young volunteers or have opportunities to offer, please contact **Andrea Forsyth** – Economic Development & Enterprise Outreach worker, 01744 457112, or email aforsyth@sthelenscvcs.org.uk



Arts in St Helens



Working Together: A New Arts Strategy for St. Helens 2010 - 2014

St. Helens Arts Service is holding a series of consultations during January 2010 to help define the strategic contribution of the arts to the vision and objectives of the St. Helens Sustainable Communities Plan. The consultation series will address each of the themes identified by members of the Local Strategic Partnership, St. Helens Together and we are inviting a wide range of people from the private, public and voluntary sectors to attend.

They would very much value the voluntary sector's input to the session on Communities and Neighbourhoods: the role of the arts in social regeneration and community development.

There is now considerable evidence of the impact of the arts on community development and its contribution to a cross cutting agenda, including building safer, more cohesive communities, addressing worklessness, reducing antisocial behaviour and empowering people to influence the issues affecting where they live. In St. Helens, Helena Partnerships, Riverside Housing and other local agencies already know the power of the arts and already use cultural activity as an integral part of their work.

The aim of this consultation is to learn more about the sectors priorities and the challenges to be faced over the next few years so that this can inform the objectives of the new Arts Strategy. The consultation also brings together key partners to look at how we can all work together better to employ the arts strategically and build on the valuable work already underway in the borough.

The Chief Executive and the Chief Officers of the borough support the consultation and the following Chief Officers will be attending; Bob Hepworth, Director of Urban Regeneration & Housing, Paul Sanderson, Director of Environmental Protection and David Parry, Head of Public Affairs.

The Listen Project will forward views from the local VCFS sector and we are asking for your views and opinions on what you would like to see included in the strategy.

The team will also be updating the sector on any information regarding the consultation and the strategy.

If you would like to pass your comments to Tina Culshaw, via email tculshaw@sthelenscvcs.org.uk

Briefing...

The new vetting and barring scheme



Following the murders of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman by caretaker Ian Huntley in 2002, the Richard Inquiry was commissioned. The inquiry identified the need for a single system to vet all individuals who want to work or volunteer to work with vulnerable people. This system is now being delivered and is called the Vetting and Barring Scheme.

To implement this scheme a new public body has been set up called the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). This authority has the power to bar people from positions where they might pose a risk to children and vulnerable adults. It will provide a register of those able to work with vulnerable groups which is continuously monitored and updated and can be accessed on-line free of charge.

This law comes into action on 12th October 2009, however, don't panic, for the moment most third sector organisations don't need to do anything differently.

Any staff or volunteers who require CRB checks should apply as usual. Existing employees and volunteers will be phased into registration over a 5 year period.

The register will be available from July 2010 and from November 2010 it is mandatory to have ISA registration for new employees and when moving jobs.

Here are some bullet points for a basic summary of things you need to start considering:-

October 2009: Changes in law which make it an offence for any barred person to work in regulated activities, and for any employer to employ someone they know to be barred, either paid or voluntary.

July 2010: New employees and volunteers can begin to register.

The cost will be a one-off payment of £64 for employees (this includes an enhanced CRB) however registration is FREE for unpaid voluntary workers.

November 2010: all new employees and new volunteers must register before they start work and employers must check the register before they employ anyone paid or unpaid to work in regulated activities.

From October List 99 and PoVA/PoCA will no longer be available, these will be replaced by ISA Barred lists

Enhanced CRB checks are available as usual.

For definition of Regulated Activities and more comprehensive information visit-

<http://www.isa.gov.org.uk>

For extra support or advice with how to move forward please do not hesitate to contact us

Cath Lewis
Network Capacity Worker
(Children & Young People)
The Listen project
Email: clewis@sthelenscvcs.org.uk
Tel: **01744 457112**

Jen Hoggarth
Network Capacity Worker
(Healthier Communities & Older People)
The Listen project
Email: jhoggarth@sthelenscvcs.org.uk
Tel: **01744 26171**



The plans ahead

St Helens LINK (Local Involvement Network) has developed its priority areas for action after asking local people, which health and social care issues are important to them.

The three issues are:
Staff attitudes, particularly in GP practices
Better standards of care, particularly hygiene
Clearer information about health and social care services

St Helens LINK is a network of individuals and organisations, which aims to give people in St Helens a greater say in local health and adult social care services and issues. Since it began, LINK has been asking people at community events throughout St Helens, which issues they think LINK should tackle as part of its workplan.

It is now setting up task groups to take this work forward. If you are interested in any of the above issues and would like to be involved, please contact Emma, Jayne or Helen in LINK on 01744 457119/6 or email sthelenslink@sthelenscvcs.org.uk

Training

News

“It is not the strongest species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones who are most responsive to change.” – CHARLES DARWIN

Managing Change in difficult times

This programme has been developed to help those groups that have this unique opportunity to be part of the Nuts & Bolts Study Group to develop in the area of managing change and all **FREE OF CHARGE**. So please have a look at the programme and start to plan **NOW** to enable as many staff and volunteers to take advantage and attend.

December 2009

Planning for Growth

3hr Intro Workshop – 10th Dec.

More staff, more volunteers, more funding, more opportunities, more projects! No matter how our organisation grows, for it to be a positive and worthwhile experience planning is the key...

BOOKING & COURSE COSTS

Limited places are available on ALL of the workshops for organisations that are NOT part of the study group so why not book now to avoid disappointment? 3hrs Workshops are £25pp for voluntary organisations and £50 for statutory and commercial. The full day training is £50pp for voluntary organisations and £85 for statutory and commercial.

January 2010

Generating income from your existing resources

3hr Intro Workshop – 20th Jan.

Did you know that you might have money hidden away in your organisation that you probably didn't think existed? This short workshop will introduce delegates to exploring the possibilities and opportunities to generate additional income...

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

Full Day Session – 27th Jan.

By the end of this session delegates will have an understanding of who is a vulnerable adult and the vulnerability of the adults they work with, and identify what is meant by abuse. They will be able to define the different types of abuse and abusers and have explored how to spot signs of abuse and to deal with disclosure. Delegates will take away information on where to take concerns and how to report abuse and have the opportunity to discuss possible difficulties and consequences around reporting concerns.

For more information or further details then please give the Training Team a call on 01744 457117.

Additional courses being delivered by St Helens CVS



January 2010

Health & Safety

21st January

This excellent one-day health and safety course is aimed at all levels of personnel from any organisation.

Topics include Workplace Health, Safety and Welfare; Health and Safety Law; Risk Assessment; Accident Prevention; Substances Hazardous to Health, and First Aid.

Delegates passing the multi-choice examination paper are awarded the Chartered Institute's Foundation Certificate in Health and Safety and a fully illustrated coloured handbook is supplied to each delegate.

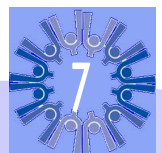
COURSE COSTS

£80pp for voluntary organisations and £135 for statutory and commercial.

CONTACT DETAILS

NUTS & BOLTS TEAM
St Helens District CVS
4th Floor, Tontine House
24 Church Street, St Helens
Merseyside WA10 1BD

For more information or further details then please give the Training Team a call on 01744 457117.



Free support for DPOs and ULOs (Disabled People's Organisations)
Disability LIB (Listen, Include, Build) is an alliance of UK DPOs.

The North West team is based with Disability Equality North West and offer free support to DPOs or aspiring DPOs.

What is a DPO?

A DPO is an organisation of Disabled people with a majority of at least 51% of disabled people/users on its board of trustees and constitution. At its core there should be an implicit commitment to the human rights of disabled people and work within the social model of disability. It could be a charity, a limited company and/ or a social enterprise.

What kind of Support does Disability LIB offer?

- Diagnostic assessments alongside your board of trustees/user forum, staff and volunteers
- Tailored one to one consultancy on Governance, legal and constitutional, development, fund-raising and tendering to match your requirements
- Training, facilitation, networking events, conferences on funding, good governance, tendering, human rights, social model.....
- Trouble shooting

For more information please see www.disabilitylib.org.uk and/or telephone Disability Equality North West on 0844 80 call) or e mail [judith](mailto:judith@disability-equality.org.uk) or jane@disability-equality.org.uk 0 4331 (local rate call) or e mail [judith](mailto:judith@disability-equality.org.uk) or jane@disability-equality.org.uk



Brownies working with the Community

Our Brownie Pack constantly tries to work with the Community in a number of ways. As a part of the Centenary celebrations of the Guide Movement this year the brownies are taking part in 'Changing the World' project and decided to support WaterAid and support the Woodland Trust.

On returning home to St Helens after help plant over 300 trees at the Scarisbrick Camp Site earlier this year a brownie asked why we did not support our Community here in Westfield Street by helping to clear the flower beds at the corner of Peter Street and Lyon Street and plant a variety of bushes and shrubs.

With the help of WESTRA, the Tenants Association, the Council's Parks & Gardens Department and financial support from the Town Centre Ward Committee work on the Brownies Gardening Project will commence on Saturday 7th November. The planting will not stop here it is hoped that monthly the Brownies will continue to maintain the flowerbeds.

Working within our local communities is very important to the Guide Movement and we will look for further opportunities in the future.

Diane Roberts
Brownie Guider
8th St Helens Brownie Pack
St Thomas Church
Westfield Street. St Helens.
Merseyside.

Another Mucky Weekend with involved!



Vinvolved Team St Helens would like to thank all the young volunteers that took part in the Mucky Weekend doing tasks such as creating board walks, putting in fences, moving cut trees and creating bonfires.

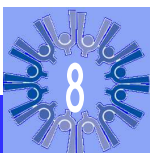
If you are 16-25 and would like to know how you can get involved with Vinvolved St Helens please contact us on 01744 751759 or email vteam@sthelenscvcs.org.uk

They are also looking for a shop, or stall that they could open, for a short period of time, to sell new and used goods.

If you can help in anyway please contact Jenny Dixon on 0151 426 5916 or 07990623905, or E-mail jennifar6@aol.com

Help wanted
Motor Neurone Disease Association

Are looking for anyone who would volunteer to do a sponsored run, walk, cycle, or swim for their South Lancashire Branch.



Going down a storm in London

Thanks to a generous grant of over £2500 from the Sports Relief Fund, the St. Helens based gymnasts of the world renowned Spartac Gymnastics Display Team have been enabled to pursue their sporting careers as gymnasts on a national stage.

They performed their new routine of "The Wizard of Oz" in London early this month to an appreciative audience who were impressed by their ability, daring and sheer enthusiasm for their sport. This was the culmination of a successful year performing on both national and local stages.

May saw them taking part in the Scottish Gym Festival in Irvine, while July saw them giving displays at the St. Helens Festival and Westhead Carnival. They also took part in a Charity Fund Raising evening organised by last years

Mayor, Councillor John Bierne. These events, together with many local displays and events throughout the North West keep our talented gymnasts very busy and show what disabilities gymnasts can achieve when given the opportunity and support! Thanks to the generosity of the Sports Relief Fund they were able to do just that!

The St. Helens based members of the display squad include gymnasts with Down's Syndrome, severe learning disability and Leigh's Syndrome. They train twice weekly at Edge Hill University with the rest of the Spartac gymnasts.

Spartac are world-renowned and have travelled extensively, promoting their talents as a first class display team. They have represented their country at international level, travelling as part of the Great Britain Team to the World Gymnaestradas in Portugal, in 2003 and to Austria in 2007.

In 2011 they hope to represent their country once more by taking part in the World Gymnaestrada to be held in Switzerland.

St. Helens Friends of Spartac was established in 2006, to help local disabilities gymnasts access fundraising, grants, sponsorships and donations to support them with their many and varied trips, displays, activities and equipment needs throughout their very full gymnastics calendar!

Free laptop & broadband for community groups

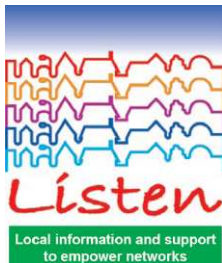


Do you know a community or charitable organisation that is looking for IT equipment and wants to get online? If so, they can apply for a BT Community Connections award today.

Any organisation, working in any field of community benefit, located anywhere within the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland can apply for a laptop and a year's free broadband connection.

In the past voluntary projects, silver-surfers, conservation organisations, family support groups, sports teams and youth groups have been successful.

All applications must be received by 7 January 2010.
You can find out more from their website
www.btcommunityconnections.com/



The Listen Project is working closely with groups and organisations to ensure that they have the capacity to be involved in the decision making and delivery shaping processes, by:

- Developing training programmes
- Organising networking events
- Establishing routes for effective information dissemination
- Providing information and resources

It is developing new networks and working with existing networks to ensure that together, they're in a stronger position to take advantage of service delivery and funding opportunities.

They are doing this by,

- Ensuring that there are opportunities to feedback and comment on local strategy
- Promoting good practice, in line with the Compact framework

They are also working to promote all the good work the sector does, for example

- Working with groups to promote their services and events
- Creating social networks
- Developing a website into a resource for the sector

They are currently creating a series of resources to assist the local sector. This includes:

- Listing of strategic documents
- Creating a directory of contacts
- The development of information guides
- A network development toolkit

To contact the Listen Project, tel 01744 457112, or email listen@sthelenscvs.org.uk



The Charity Commission has endorsed the PQASSO Quality Mark.

The endorsement means that organisations achieving the PQASSO Quality Mark at Levels 2 and 3 will receive the Charity Commission's badge of approval confirming that they meet the Hallmarks of an Effective Charity.

The Charity Commission endorsed logo can be used alongside the PQASSO Quality Mark logo to demonstrate your achievement. You can apply **now** for the PQASSO Quality Mark at Level 2. Applications at Level 3 will open in 2010.

How to find out more

The PQASSO Quality Mark website contains step-by-step guidance to help you to prepare and apply for the PQASSO Quality Mark. Visit

www.pqassoqualitymark.org.uk



Are you using PQASSO 3rd edition?

And does your organisation want to receive a nationally recognised quality award?

The PQASSO Quality Mark is now available for PQASSO 3rd edition - the most current version of the leading quality standards for the third sector. Described as "the one for the sector" (John Tempest, Child Action Northwest), the PQASSO Quality Mark offers external verification of an organisation's achievement of the PQASSO standards.

It can lead to greater recognition and credibility from funders and commissioners and increased motivation for staff, trustees and volunteers.

"We have more confidence in the way in which we deliver our work. What we are doing is right because we have standards that are being used nationally." (recently awarded organisation)

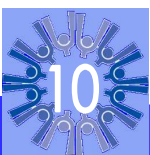
Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards Scheme

The Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards Scheme provides one-off donations of between £1,000 and £4,000 to local projects that support children and their education and welfare, elderly people and adults and children with disabilities.

GRANTS FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE AND ADULTS AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Applications should be made between: 1st February & 31st March for decisions by end of June OR between 1st August & 30th September for decisions by end of December.

Please note charities can only make one application each year.



Lamplight's aim is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of those in the voluntary and community sector by providing a low-cost (from £15 per month) database system.

Their new system, Version 3, has just been launched and enables

GRANTS FOR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S WELFARE

Applications should be made between: 1st December & 31st January.

If you require any support whilst completing your application please contact the helpline or visit the website to download a copy of the criteria or view the application form. **Tel: 0845 612 3575**
www.tescopl.com/tescocharitytrust

organisations to store as much information as they need about the people they work with, the work they are doing and the impact they are having on them. This data is then organised into reports in a variety of formats to provide management information on their work. The system is fully customisable to suit the individual needs of the different organisations and ultimately streamlines their administrative processes leaving them more time to concentrate on those that matter most to them.

Lamplight say, "We often find that to understand all that Lamplight can offer is to see it! If you do have some time available I would be happy to do a telephone walkthrough of the system with you. This will enable you to see the system in a demo format and will help explain the benefits of Lamplight."

Visit their website
www.lamplightdb.co.uk or call on 02075588793 if you want any further information



Effective Supervision Skills

A practical, process-focused 2-day course, which builds confidence, incorporates existing skills, and provides a flexible structure for managing supervision meetings.

It is essential training for newly or recently appointed Supervisors or Managers.

It is also invaluable for skills updating and affirming practice for those with more experience.

Venue: Kuumba Imani Centre,
Liverpool
Date: 7th & 8th December 2009

OR

Venue: The Grange, Manchester
Date: 9th & 10th December 2009

www.idttraining.com/booking
By e-mail mail@idttraining.com
By phone 01803 299049



Domestic Violence Awareness Training

Domestic Violence is currently at the forefront of the Home Office agenda. A decision to tackle violence in teenagers relationships is the focus on prevention that is critical to long term change. In an effort to contribute to this issue The Relationships Centre is offering training to all professionals, to provide a greater understanding of domestic violence and even more so, the effects on victims and families.

The Relationships Centre offers innovative solutions that not only treat the effects, but also target the cause of abuse and relationship problems. Our overall aim is to raise awareness and support anyone to develop the healthiest relationship they can.

We strive for changes in St Helens by way of promoting the IDVA service and asking all professionals to refer into the service. A recent evaluation completed by CAADA around the effectiveness of work completed by the IDVA service suggested:

"The way in which IDVAs worked with victims had a direct bearing on the chances of achieving improved safety and well-being. Victims receiving more intensive support

were more likely to do better than those receiving limited support; and victims who received multiple forms of intervention fared better than those receiving none, or a single form of intervention.

These findings suggest that the intervention that IDVAs provide is causal in bringing about positive changes for victims"

As part of the work we complete on a daily basis, we are pleased to offer training around general domestic violence awareness to all professionals from all agencies, something that would be beneficial to both existing and new staff.

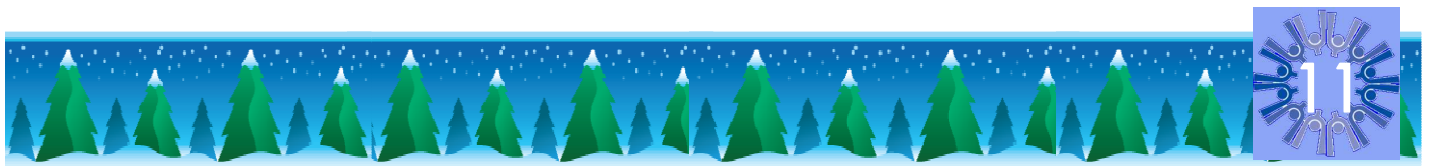
In addition to this The Relationships Centre offers a 'Positive You' course, which is focused on the victim as a person and helps combat self-esteem and confidentiality issues.

The 'Positive You' course offers an opportunity promote change in victim's circumstances, by way of independent living and being confident in decision making.

For your opportunity in becoming involved in this training in the New Year please contact on 01744743200 or Lindsay Jolly on 01928566073. Additional courses will be arranged if necessary.

*The Staff and Volunteers at St Helens CVS
would like to wish all of you
the very best for the Festive Season and New Year!*

Ho! Ho! Ho!





The FAIR Project is a dedicated funding advice service that provides the “tools”, training and events to encourage your organisation to grow and be sustainable.

For support and guidance on matters relating to fundraising and grant givers please contact:

Funding Information Points:

Joan Baxter 01744 457108
jbaxter@sthelenscvcs.org.uk

Jeff Fletcher 01744 457108
jfletcher@sthelenscvcs.org.uk

David Faulkner 01744 457108
dfaulkner@sthelenscvcs.org.uk

Funding Advice:

Sylvia Neve 01744 457108
sneve@sthelenscvcs.org.uk

Funding Advice

Sue Wright 01744 457107
slwright@sthelenscvcs.org.uk

For more information on funding that is currently available please see Listen Team Blog – where we have a copy of the Fair Teams Funding newsletter

<http://listentosthelens.wordpress.com>



Event Review – Influencing Parliament

Voluntary Sector NW arranged a short series of events with Parliamentary Outreach around “Influencing Parliament.”

At the event, an overview of the structure and responsibilities of Parliament was given, as well as the scrutiny that can be applied at National, Regional and Local level. It is important to understand whether the correct body to contact over a specific issue, is Parliament or your Local Authority.

If your group does wish to interact with Parliament, there are a number of means by which this is possible: Parliamentary Questions, Parliamentary Debates or Early Day Motions. As well as petitioning your local MP you may wish to contact an All Party Parliamentary Group (based around a common interest), or a Select Committee (including giving evidence to a select committee).

At the event, one of the sessions was on the working of the Health Select Committee by David Turner, who is a Committee Specialist, which is a civil servant whose role is to support the workings of select committees.

The best advice given was to establish a relationship with MPs who are interested in your field of operation, rather than wait until there is a crisis for which you need their support. Although, many methods of contact will not directly change legislation, they will raise awareness, they may stimulate public debate and hold the Government to account which, in turn, may influence Government policy.

If interest is expressed it may be possible for CVS to arrange a similar event locally. **If you are interested contact Jen Hoggarth Listen Team Tel 01744 26171, or email jhoggarth@sthelenscvcs.org.uk**



Grow Healthy Activity Programme, December – March 2010, at Harlow Close Allotments, Thatto Heath

Wed 9 December

As a Festive Celebration of efforts to date, we are having a warm lunch on the plot between 12-1, followed by some maintenance work on the orchard
Time: 12 – 3pm

Wed 6 & 20 January

Reclaiming and preparing new areas for future fruit and vegetable growing
Time: 1 – 3pm

Wed 3 & 17 February

Continued maintenance and improvement work preparing the plot for the coming growing season
Time: 1 – 3pm

Wed 3 & 17 March

Some winter crop harvesting and early seed sowing/ planting to get a head start on the growing season to come
Time: 1 – 3pm

All are welcome to attend, just turn up at the date and time above, or for more info please call Liz on 0151 726 2767

