

Over the summer break the Children and Young People's team from VAWK delivered a wide range of activities to ensure that their summer was one to remember.

- The team ran 5 residential trips over the summer for 27 young disabled people and 34 youth volunteers
- Delivered 57 day trips and activities - not bad going considering that the summer holidays was in total only about 39 days including weekends and bank holidays!
- Visited varied attractions including Colchester Zoo, Blackland Farm, Chessington World of Adventures, the beach, bowling, the cinema, and many more
- Arranged 5 family fun days for over 350 people
- Worked with TWBC and KCC to run 20 family activity days for over 1,000 children
- A 7-week programme of cookery classes
- A garden project
- Over 2,300 participants attended the activities that were offered which were supported by over 200 young volunteers



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We are continually seeking to improve the services that we provide and would be pleased to hear your comments on our newsletter. Is it clear and easy to read? Is the information useful to you and your organisation? Are there any areas that you feel we are currently omitting and that you would like to see included?

We would welcome positive feedback as well as suggestions for improvement and would appreciate you taking the time to contact us. You can email us on info@vawk.org.uk or call 01892 530330. Any comments will be treated in the strictest confidence.

2011 Compact Awards

Compact Voice announced that nominations are open for the 2011 Compact Awards: these will highlight and recognise outstanding examples of partnership work between voluntary and community organisations and the statutory sector and provide an opportunity to acknowledge achievement as a result of implementing Compact-working.

There are 6 categories, including Compact Champion of the Year, and Compact Voice are now inviting those involved in Compact groups to nominate an example of best practice in partnership working. For details on the categories and information on how to nominate, visit the web site:

www.compactvoice.org.uk/awards

Winners will be announced during Compact Week - 7 to 11 November 2011.

Sector leaders urge Eric Pickles to back the Compact

Compact Voice asks the communities secretary to reassure local authorities about his commitment to the public and voluntary sector partnership agreement.

<http://thirdsector.co.uk/News/login/1085966/>

Work Programme targets are 'unreachable', says think tank

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector Online, 23 August 2011

Social Market Foundation says past experience indicates most providers are unlikely to reach the prescribed figures. Twenty-two of the 24 lead providers of Flexible New Deal, the Labour government's welfare-to-work scheme, would have failed to meet the targets being set by the government for Work Programme providers, according to a think tank report.

<http://thirdsector.co.uk/news/1086057/Work-Programme-targets-unreachable-says-think-tank/>

Charity Commission launches videos to help smaller charities to file their accounts online

Evidence shows that those with incomes under £500,000 are less used to filing online, which is a requirement from this year. The Charity Commission has created video tutorials on its website that offer smaller charities step-by-step guidance to filing their annual returns online.

<http://thirdsector.co.uk/news/1085595/Charity-Commission-launches-videos-help-smaller-charities-file-accounts-online/>

Government moots adding social investment to BIG funding priorities

The Big Lottery Fund will be required to fund initiatives which strengthen the social investment market, according to proposed new guidelines from the Cabinet Office.

New guidance attempts to stop local authorities from cutting disproportionately

Local authorities should not make cuts to the voluntary sector that are larger than those they are experiencing themselves, according to new guidance issued today.



Communities Food Community Interest Company

Communities Food CIC will:

- Establish and manage a Food Bank serving Kent and Medway
- Be registered with Fair Share (<http://www.fareshare.org.uk/>)
- Promote healthy living
- Promote and support bulk food purchasing schemes, food co-operatives & other self-grow schemes and organisations providing to provide food to those suffering from food poverty
- Distribute food to existing church and community based food banks.

It will also distribute food to **kitchens** of organisations providing meals for homeless people, asylum seekers, older people, school breakfast and after school clubs; indeed any organisation supporting people suffering deprivation.

The company receives food, at no cost, which would otherwise be destroyed. The food is distributed free of charge in return for an annual service fee which will be well below the value of the food provided. So far the company has identified 59 organisations with kitchens providing meals for the target client group.

Can you help by identifying any food banks in your area and also any organisations which provide meals to the vulnerable clients? This might include community centres, youth clubs, and lunch clubs. Please contact John Hopkinson at cfcc@aol.co.uk

This not-for profit, CIC has been set up by John Hopkinson and is supported by
Voluntary Action within Kent and Action *with* Communities *in* Rural Kent.
Registered Company 7512872

DMA sets up VAT advice line for charity marketers

The Direct Marketing Association has set up a new advice service to help charity marketers understand the VAT concessions available to them.

Youth workers to strike in protest at cuts in Cameron's constituency

Youth workers in David Cameron's Witney constituency are planning to strike in protest at the closure of all five of the youth centres run by the Tory-controlled Oxfordshire County Council.

VAT cost-sharing exemption may not cover back-office services

An HMRC official has dashed hopes that the sector may be able to make big savings as a result of the proposed VAT exemption on shared back-office services, in a speech to charity finance directors this week.

Guide for learning from grant refusals released

Frustration and disappointment often accompany a grant application refusal but a guide released today aims to outline best practice for rejections and ensure that even refusals offer value to grant seekers.

http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/fundraising/news/content/10437/guide_for_learning_from_grant_refusals_released

Will the Work Programme Work?

Social Market Foundation has published [Will the Work Programme Work?](#) It says the Department for Work and Pensions' performance targets are "unreachable" and this could lead to the failure of the programme.

Big Lottery consultation

A reminder that the Cabinet Office is holding a [consultation](#) on the proposed policy directions of the Big Lottery Fund. The consultation is open until 18 November 2011.

88% of local areas support the Compact

Compact Voice has published the results of a [survey](#) into the state of local Compacts. Overall, 88% of respondents agreed that "the Compact is important."

Councils ranked by how well they're coping with cuts to disability services

Think tank Demos has published a report on the impact of local authority budget cuts on disability services which for the first time ranks councils by how well they are coping as well as by the severity of the cuts.

Absolute explosion in heritage funding applications

The Heritage Lottery Fund has witnessed an "absolute explosion" in funding applications, just as local government cuts funding to local heritage projects, and the Heritage Lottery Fund deals with its unexpected windfall in Lottery funds.

Transforming Local Infrastructure

As you may, or may not know The Big Society Co-operative is working on the contents of the bid for transforming infrastructure in Kent and are keen to get some direct feedback on what sort of services frontline civil society organisations would like and how they would like them delivered so we can ensure our bid has good strong evidence from the sector. The survey only takes 2- 3 minutes but it will give vital feedback and evidence to help shape the bid. The survey is anonymous and the data collected will only be used for the purposes of supporting evidence for the bid.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TLIKentsurvey>

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

Max. Value: Discretionary

The Trust provides funding for British citizens to travel anywhere in the world for between four and eight weeks, with the aim of gaining knowledge and experience that will enhance effectiveness at work and contribution to the community.

<http://www.wcmt.org.uk/>

Day Opportunities Services for Older Adults

Max. Value: Discretionary

Procurement opportunity to provide a 'day opportunities' service for older adults living in and around Hawkhurst in Kent.

<https://www.businessportal.southeastiep.gov.uk/sece/cms.nsf/vLiveDocs/SD-DEVV-6UNGEK?OpenDocument&contentid=1.001>

Funding Available for UK Villages

The Village SOS Competition aims to support voluntary organisations to start community businesses to reinvigorate village communities. The Big Lottery Fund scheme will help groups with business ideas to support enterprises and activities which tackle specific problems faced by villages and their residents.

New Funding for Dementia Sufferers

Over £300,000 is available to partnerships delivering innovative solutions for dementia sufferers and their carers.

The Living Well with Dementia competition is run by the Design Council, in partnership with the Department of Health with additional support from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

Oak Foundation

Oak Foundation commits its resources to address issues of global social and environmental concern, particularly those that have a major impact on the lives of the disadvantaged. The Foundation seeks leadership projects that meet the following criteria:

- Target root causes;
- Demonstrate solutions that can be adopted by permanent providers and/or by government;
- Mobilise financial commitment from a range of different sources;
- Promote collaboration among organisations and funders;
- Involve the target population in the planning and implementation of the project;
- Demonstrate good financial and organisational management.

For more information, including how to apply, please visit their website <http://www.oakfnd.org/>

DfID invites applications for global poverty grants

The Department for International Development is currently accepting applications from charities for its £40m Global Poverty Action Fund.

2012 IMPACT Awards - Core funding for health charities

[GSK's IMPACT Awards](#) are designed to reward charities that are doing excellent work to improve people's health. Up to 15 awards will be made ranging from £3,000 to £35,000. To apply go to: www.kingsfund.org.uk/gskimpactawards. Closing date Friday 23 September 2011

Defra Local Nature Partnerships

Grants in the region of £20,000 are available to support the formation of [Local Nature Partnerships](#). Local Nature Partnerships bring a range of individuals, organisations and businesses together to formulate a plan of how the natural environment can be considered in local decision making.

The Innovation, Excellence and Service Development Fund

The [2012-13 fund](#) is open for applications to support projects in the health and social care field. The available funding is very limited and, to be successful, organisations will need to have a clear focus in their applications on how their proposed projects would support and drive forward new ideas, excellence or developments in services in health and social care.

Homelessness Transition Fund

The [independent Homelessness Transition Fund](#) aims to protect essential services for homeless people, encourage innovation and supporting communities to adopt the 'No Second Night Out' standard.

Awards for children's projects

The [Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards Scheme](#) provides one-off donations of between £500 and £4,000. The funding goes towards providing practical benefits, such as equipment and resources for projects that directly benefit children, the elderly and adults and children with disabilities, living in the local communities around Tesco stores in the UK. Deadline 30 September.

Edgar E Lawley Foundation

The [Edgar E Lawley Foundation](#) annual grants programme amounts to approximately £250,000 per annum with a typical grant being in the region of £1,200 to £2,000. The Foundation supports six broad areas including children and young people. Deadline 31 October.

Community Grant Scheme 2012/13

If your voluntary organisation gives help, provides services to residents of the Sevenoaks District or works with local young people, you may be able to apply for a grant.

For details:

Please telephone: 01732 227000 or email: grants@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can download the scheme guidelines and request an application form online from the Council's website at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/grants

SPACE (Sunrise Parents Advisory Committee)

SPACE is a parent driven charity which provides support and advocacy for families and carers with disabled children. The charity covers the region of South West Kent, encompassing Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells and their surrounding villages and hamlets. If you have a disabled child and either live in the region or your child goes to a local school, you can access the help and support provided.

The charity is managed by Peter Nicholls and the Trustees are largely parents or carers of disabled children. Together they provide short breaks, child care advice, support at the point of diagnosis and drop in centres. Their website is www.spacecharity.org and Peter can be contacted on **07770 847118** or by e-mail at peter.nicholls@spacecharity.org.

If you wish to become a member and join their support mailing list, please contact Peter at any time.

KCC Short Breaks Consultation

In accordance with the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 Kent County Council (KCC), working in partnership with the NHS, has prepared a draft statement that describes short break services for carers of disabled children and young people in Kent. The draft statement has been published for consultation on the KCC website at www.kent.gov.uk/shortbreaksconsultation and the consultation will run until 5pm on Friday 23rd September. The statement is available in other formats and languages (contact 08458 247 247 or textphone 08458 247 905).

They want to hear what you think about their draft statement, whether you are a parent or carer of a disabled child, an organisation providing services for disabled children, or a professional working with disabled children. There is a very brief (anonymous) online survey which you can complete, or you can e-mail shortbreaksconsultation@kent.gov.uk

Ofsted report says VCS not considered

This [small-scale survey](#) examines approaches to the commissioning of services for young people in 12 local authority areas and reports on the experience of national organisations involved in this work. The survey highlights that in most cases, local authorities were not giving sufficiently impartial consideration to new providers as part of their commissioning, particularly voluntary sector, community and charitable organisations.

Services for Young People

The Department for Education has published a [report](#) evaluating a Government programme providing activities and services for young people. Findings from the "Myplace" evaluation include: more young people, particularly the most disadvantaged, were able to participate in positive leisure time activities; and the Myplace sites improved access to information, advice and guidance and helped young people access specialist services.

Teenage relationship violence and abuse

The Home Office has launched a new [campaign](#) targeting teenage relationship violence and abuse. Resources include: a guide to signs of abuse, a list of services which help both perpetrators and victims and a discussion board

Kent Youth Service Restructure and Consultation

Local authorities have a duty to provide sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people aged 13-19 and those aged 20-24 with learning disabilities. Provision has typically taken the form of services any young person can access, including a range of leisure, cultural and sporting activities often based around youth clubs, drop in centres and a variety of mobile provision and outreach projects. Kent County Council is proposing to change the way it delivers youth services so that it can continue to provide a service despite funding cuts.

What will be different?

It is their intention that youth activities will still be available in local areas; however the main change will be that they will only directly run one large youth centre (a 'hub') in each of the 12 districts or boroughs. There are currently 33 youth centres run by Kent Youth Service so this is a significant reduction. Each hub will be supported by a street based youth work project which meets young people where they congregate. They will also continue to employ at least one Community Youth Tutor (a youth worker linked to a school) in each district/borough. It is proposed that they will commission more services from the voluntary sector particularly in those areas where Kent Youth Service is decommissioning its own provision. Following the consultation on proposals, local groups will be invited to express an interest in delivering youth work against agreed targets. These groups may choose to do this from centres that are not selected as hubs.

Where can you find out more?

The full document explaining the proposals in detail is available, as is a young persons' introduction.

[KYS Transformation Consultation Full Document \(PDF, 6135k\)](#)

[KYS Transformation Young Peoples' Summary \(PDF, 2487k\)](#)

[KYS Transformation Frequently Asked Questions \(PDF, 87k\)](#)

How to get involved

Please take part in the consultation by filling out the [questionnaire](#) until 29th October. You can also give your views by emailing kysconsultation@kent.gov.uk or you can write to:

Kent Youth Service Consultation, 3rd Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

Infrastructure Network for Disability Information (INDI) South East

Infrastructure Network for Disability Information (INDI) South East is a project funded by Big Lottery Fund to provide a networking and information service for voluntary and community sector organisations who are involved in the disability sector.

Their services include:

- Local networking meetings for disability organisations
- Providing and sharing disability related information
- An on-line directory of key disability organisations in the South East
- Providing active support for representations from the disability sector into consultation processes
- Establishing local disability networks where they don't already exist
- Bringing together regional representatives in disability discussions
- Regular updates of developments in the sector

Here are more details about INDI's programme of autumn and winter events. Their networking events offer a great opportunity to meet other local and regional disability organisations and key partners.

Dates for your diary...

- Wed 9 November 9.30am-4pm
Understanding Disability training event with workshops looking at different disabilities and impairments.
Lingfield Racecourse, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6PQ.
For further details and to register for any event please contact Vickie Ellis, vickie@asksid.org.uk or tel 01372 361901.
- Thurs 24 November 12-12.30pm
Kent Networking Event
Thanington Resource Centre, Thanington, Nr Canterbury, Kent, CT1 3XE.
For further details and to register for any event please contact Vickie Ellis, vickie@asksid.org.uk or tel 01372 361901.

If your organisation is not already a member of INDI South East please 'Join Us' using the electronic form on their website www.indi.org.uk/joinus or call Vickie Ellis on 01372 361901 for more details.

*** A NEW AND EXCITING PROJECT ***

CAMEO
(Come and Meet Each Other)

CAMEO is a pilot project to set up a new service for people who have found themselves single and isolated due to the death or separation of a partner. The project will run three 12-week programmes, each for 12-20 participants.

The programme will consist of a series of workshops designed to equip participants with the practical skills their partner used in their relationship, which they now need to live independently. For example, personal safety and home security, healthy living, personal finances, online and telephone banking, general car maintenance, community services, simple DIY. We will incorporate a social event, such as a pub lunch or theatre trip. CAMEO groups will provide an extended social circle and opportunities to learn new and essential life skills.

CAMEO will make a difference to isolated individuals by increasing their confidence and self-esteem, improving their quality of life and enabling each individual to feel they can make a positive contribution to their community through volunteering and access to further training. CAMEO will help people to help themselves and one another. The project will support isolated people to learn new skills and to become involved in adult learning, volunteering and new social friendships. The project will foster a spirit of community involvement and empower people to become involved in decisions that affect their lives and their communities.

If you or your organisation can help with the following:

- Refer someone that CAMEO will benefit
- Be a volunteer trainer in General Car Maintenance, Home Security and Personal Safety, Exercises at Home, Cooking and Budgeting for one, General Home Maintenance etc
- Know of groups and organisations that would be interested to hear more
- Places, local magazines and local hot spots where we should publicise this project

Then it would be great to hear from you.

Please contact me:

Sally Simms, Development Officer,
Voluntary Action Within Kent 17-19 Monson Road, Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 1LS
sally.simms@vawk.org.uk 01892 530330 ext. 511

Local Healthwatch

Issue 1 of the new monthly Kent LINK publication 'LINK into Local HealthWatch' is now available using the link below:

http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/assets/files/HealthWatch_Newsletters/2011/Ed1_LINK_Into_Local_HealthWatch_Newsletter_18082011.pdf

This issue is slightly longer than future editions as it provides background information together with updates for HealthWatch England, Local HealthWatch and the Kent Local HealthWatch Development Group.

If you have any questions arising from this newsletter, please contact Rich Beckwith, Local HealthWatch Development Worker, email richard@kmn-ltd.co.uk, telephone 01303 297050 / 07969 468507.

NHS Future Forum to start new listening phase

Following the initial Listening Exercise in May, the Government has asked the NHS Future Forum to continue a new phase of engagement with patients, professionals and service users. The conversations will focus on four...

[For more information please click here.](#)

Top Priorities for Commissioners

The King's Fund has produced 'Transforming our Health Care system - Ten priorities for commissioners' which sets out their top ten priorities for commissioners to action. The priorities include areas such...

[For more information please click here.](#)

Paying for Long Term Care Information Booklet

A resource has been developed by Age UK and Counsel and Care to help people make better and more informed decisions about paying for care. It has been updated from previous information supplied through the previous Putting...

[For more information please click here.](#)

Community green spaces

CLG has published [Potential funding for community green spaces](#), a good practice and guidance publication looking at potential funding available to voluntary and community organisations for community green space initiatives.

Community organisations and local political participation

A new [report](#) from Community Matters into what difference community organisations make to formal and informal political participation in their neighbourhoods has been published. The research project was led by the Institute for Voluntary Action Research, finding out how such organisations contribute to local cultures of connectedness, social action, and political self-confidence.

Community rights

CLG has published two new statements on the Community Rights in the Localism Bill, [Right to Challenge](#) and [Assets of Community Value](#)

Welcome to our Autumn 2011 Training Programme

We are pleased to announce the latest training opportunities from September 2011 – December 2011.

Voluntary Action Within Kent; Training and Consultancy aims to provide high quality training that meets the needs of the voluntary and community sector in an ever changing climate. We offer a training programme, bespoke training and facilitation.

Our courses are aimed at voluntary and community organisations, however they are open to statutory organisations and others.

Our Autumn training programme includes the following training courses - **Introduction to Merger and Collaboration, Introduction to Social Enterprise, Introduction to Legal Structures and Charity Law.** Full information regarding all of our courses can be found on our NEW website please do have a look. [Click here](#)

For more information, contact Angela Holland angela.holland@vawk.org.uk or Diane Brenham diane.brenham@vawk.org.uk. Alternatively call 01892 530330.

Voluntary Action Within Kent is a provider of courses accredited by the Open College Network South East Region. For Open College Network accredited courses; pre and post course work will form part of the course and will need to be completed for accreditation.

**** Organisations can choose whether to go for the Open College Network (OCN) accredited course (£50) or for the non-accredited course (£40).**

The difference being the former will enable participants to receive a certificate accredited by the Open College Network South East region, participants choosing the latter will receive a certificate of attendance from VAWK.

Course	Date and Time	Venue	Cost	
Introduction to Leadership Skills	Thursday 22.09.11 10am-4pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tunbridge Wells Kent	£40 per person	
** An Introduction to Effective Fundraising	Tuesday 27.09.11 9.30am-4.30pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tunbridge Wells Kent	OCN Accredited	Non OCN accredited
			£50 per person	£40 per person

Course	Date and Time	Venue	Cost	
Introduction to Social Enterprise	Thursday 29.9.11 10am-1.0pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tunbridge Wells Kent	£30 per person	
**An Introduction to Effective Communications Skills	Tuesday 4.10.11 9.30am-4.30pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tunbridge Wells Kent	OCN Accredited	Non OCN accredited
			£50 per person	£40 per person
Fundraising and the Law	Thursday 6.10.11 10am – 1pm	Broadmead Church Hall, Broadmead Tunbridge Wells Kent	Free of Charge	
** Managing Change in a Voluntary Organisation	Wednesday 12.10.11 9.30am – 4.30pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tunbridge Wells Kent	OCN Accredited	Non OCN accredited
			£50 per person	£40 per person
Introduction to Strategic Planning	Friday 14.10.11 9.30am – 4.30pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tunbridge Wells Kent	£40 per person	
**An Introduction to Outcomes and Impact	Tuesday 18.10.11 9.30am-4.30pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tunbridge Wells Kent	OCN Accredited	Non OCN accredited
			£50 per person	£40 per person
**Presentation and Public Speaking Skills	Thursday 20.10.11 9.30am- 4.30pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tunbridge Wells Kent	OCN Accredited	Non OCN accredited
			£50 per person	£40 per person

Course	Date and Time	Venue	Cost	
Introduction to Merger and Collaboration	Wednesday 26.10.11 9.30am- 4.30pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tun- bridge Wells Kent	£40 per person	
Business Planning for the Voluntary Sector	Thursday 3.11.11 9.30am - 1pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tun- bridge Wells Kent	£35 per person	
**An Introduction to Management Skills	Wednesday 9.11.11 9.30am-4.30pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tun- bridge Wells Kent	OCN Ac- credited	Non OCN accredited
			£50 per person	£40 per person
Level 2 Health and Safety at Work	Tuesday 15.11.11 9.30am – 4.30pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tun- bridge Wells Kent	£60 per person	
**Introduction to Roles & Responsibilities of Trustees	Thursday 17.11.11 9.30am – 4.30pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tun- bridge Wells Kent	OCN Ac- credited	Non OCN accredited
			£50 per person	£50 per person
Introduction to Tendering Skills	Tuesday 22.11.11	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tun- bridge Wells Kent	£35 per person	
Appointed Person First Aid in the Workplace	Friday 25.11.11 9.30am-4.00pm	Broadmead Church Hall, Broadmead Tunbridge Wells Kent	£60 per person	
**Introduction to Assertiveness Skills	Tuesday 29.11.11 9.30am – 4.30pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tun- bridge Wells Kent	OCN Ac- credited	Non OCN accredited
			£50 per person	£50 per person
Introduction to Legal Structures	Tuesday 6.12.11 10am – 1pm	Voluntary Action Within Kent - 17-19 Monson Road Tun- bridge Wells Kent	£30 per person	

How to book

Booking is very easy. You can now download a booking form online at www.vawk.org.uk or email Diane Brenham at diane.brenham@vawk.org.uk for a booking form.

You are now able to book online via our website and pay by credit or debit card.

Please note payment in advance secures places as per our booking form.

Alternatively call Angela Holland or Diane Brenham on 01892 530330.

We can tailor training to meet your needs and can deliver to just your organisation, or you can share the course with another organisation to split the cost and improve working relationships. Costs are based on your requirements, such as length of session. Topics include funding and fundraising, monitoring and outcomes, roles and responsibilities of management committees, development planning and collaboration.

We can also facilitate sessions for your organisation and potential partner organisations looking at collaboration, change management, troubleshooting, strategic planning and ideas generation.

If you are interested please contact Angela Holland on 01892 530330 or email angela.holland@vawk.org.uk. The cost for this specialised service is on application.

Dyslexia Action Tonbridge

Please find attached details of this 10 week course to help dyslexic adults with their literacy skills: reading techniques (skimming/scanning) and writing (including help with their CV's), organisation and time management strategies and memory strategies. The cost of this is £50 for the 10 weeks and has been partly funded by **Dyslexia Action's It's Me Learning Fund**.

Towards the end of the course they will be shown how to use Dyslexia Action's **Units of Sound, Literacy That Fits** and will be given a memory stick that they can keep and use to develop their literacy skills after the course.

Please note that places are limited.

Dyslexia Action Tonbridge Centre

First Floor, Bridge House, 97-101 High Street, Tonbridge, TN91DP

T 01732 352762 F 01732 369173

E tonbridge@dyslexiaaction.org.uk

www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk

Free Learn Direct Course on Winning Public Sector Contracts

Winning the Contract provides an introduction to the public sector, explains the procurement process and offers practical advice to help you identify new business opportunities. This course has information on apprenticeships, forming a social enterprise and useful resources with helpful hints and tips on drafting and submitting bids. Read more at

<http://www1.learndirect-business.com/business-courses/winning-the-contract/>

Family Life Course

Family Life is a FREE resource available to anyone who supports families. It promotes communication between parents/carers and children about growing up and gives adults confidence when talking about issues such as relationships, puberty, risk taking and sex. The resource can be used as a 4 session course or as individual topics to address specific issues that parents / carers are dealing with.

If you work with families and would like to support them in improving their communication skills with their children then you are invited to attend a FREE training event* to introduce the Family Life Course.

Thursday 13th October 1-4 pm
Ashford Enterprise Centre, Faversham Road, Kennington TN24 9AL
(5 mins from J9 M20 15 mins from M2)

Places are limited and available by application only. If you have any questions please email [Catherine Collingwood](mailto:Collingwood.training@yahoo.co.uk) at: Collingwood.training@yahoo.co.uk

Download an application form at http://www.kentcan.org/images/stories/FamilyLifeApplicationForm_October2011.doc

*The Family Life training event is being provided by KCC

First Click

The BBC's First Click web site offers basic computer training to show that using computers and the internet is easier than you think. There are activities, video guides and printable pages on this website to help you get started and feel more confident. www.bbc.co.uk/firstclick

Charities invited to take part in benchmarking study on volunteering

By John Plummer, Third Sector Online, 19 August 2011

A study by the Association of Volunteer Managers and Agenda Consulting will enable organisations to assess their performance against those of their peers.

<http://thirdsector.co.uk/news/1085608/Charities-invited-part-benchmarking-study-volunteering/>

Acevo sceptical over David Cameron's proposal to extend National Citizen Service

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector Online, 17 August 2011

Volunteering scheme for school leavers should be available to all 16-year-olds, Prime Minister says in response to last week's riots. The chief executives body Acevo has urged caution about David Cameron's plan to extend the National Citizen Service in response to last week's riots in cities across England.

<http://thirdsector.co.uk/news/1085089/Acevo-sceptical-David-Camerons-proposal-extend-National-Citizen-Service/>

V stakeholders 'concerned over perception of Labour bias', independent report says

Volunteers and organisers feared the coalition government would dismiss the youth volunteering charity's achievements.

<http://thirdsector.co.uk/News/login/1084770/>

Motor insurers promise not to charge volunteer drivers a premium

Over 50 car insurance providers have confirmed that they will not charge extra for volunteer driving.

Is all volunteering of benefit?

The Institute for Volunteering Research has produced '[The flawed third principle of volunteering](#)', which looks behind assumptions of the benefit arising from all volunteering. The paper argues that this is a key weakness in definitions of volunteering based on the three principles of it being unpaid, uncoerced and of benefit.

A-Z of Opportunities...

- ⇒ Would you enjoy hands-on work with a variety of animals in an animal sanctuary? All the pleasures of keeping animals without the responsibilities!
- ⇒ Are you full of creative ideas? Could you run an Art class for a small group of people with a physical disability in a day centre?
- ⇒ Could you prepare books from schools to be shipped to East Africa?
- ⇒ Could you befriend, give support and advice to vulnerable young people?
- ⇒ Do you have good computer skills? Computer Buddies needed to help library users with computer software queries
- ⇒ Dance, Dig and Diet Champions needed to join a vegetable bag distribution team and to promote a healthy lifestyle via dance fitness, gardening activities and healthy diets.
- ⇒ Volunteers needed to occasionally walk guide dogs
- ⇒ Car drivers needed to drive elderly clients and those with disabilities or illness to appointments such as doctors, hairdressers, shops
- ⇒ Want to work out of doors in a beautiful garden? Volunteers needed to help with estate work.
- ⇒ Flower arrangers for a guest house, hospital and church. From formal arrangements to simple posies
- ⇒ Volunteers needed to help run the stall at fundraising events selling goods and tombola tickets.
- ⇒ Hairdresser with good listening skills to work with people who are life limited due to illness
- ⇒ Help to identify and record the oldest trees locally. Train to become a Heritage Tree Surveyor
- ⇒ Assist a patient home from hospital with shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking, conversation, light household duties and companionship
- ⇒ Help silver surfers learn or brush up on their computer skills as an Internet Café helper
- ⇒ Play music or run a singalong for adults with learning disabilities
- ⇒ On the Railway... Be a volunteer Driver, Guard or Ticket Inspector

- ⇒ The possibilities appear endless... What could you offer?

Compiled by volunteers at the Volunteer Centre Tunbridge Wells

Edenbridge Outreach

THE BRIDGES CENTRE
High Street
Edenbridge
Kent
TN8 5AJ

t 01732 454785
e volunteering@vawk.org.uk
w edenbridgevolunteers.org.uk

Volunteer Centre Sevenoaks

Knole Academy West
Bradbourne Vale Road
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 3LE

t 01732 454785
e volunteering@vawk.org.uk
w sevenoaksvolunteers.org.uk

Volunteer Centre Tunbridge Wells

Voluntary Action Within Kent
17-19 Monson Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN1 1LS

t 01892 530330
f 01892 532539
e volunteering@vawk.org.uk
w tunbridgewellsvolunteers.org.uk

noticeboard

Eduserv extends Adobe discount to all charities

Eduserv has reached an agreement with Adobe to offer its software products to charities with discounts of up to 40 per cent.

Home-Start South West Kent

Invite you to the 18th Annual General Meeting on Thursday 29th September 2011, 12 to 1.30pm. Please see the attached flier for further information.



NCVO Sustainable Funding Conference 2011

Bookings are now being taken for this year's Sustainable Funding Conference from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) on 24 November.

The funding landscape for the voluntary and community sector has been thrown into disarray over the last couple of years. However, new agendas have created exciting opportunities inspiring innovation in income generation and increasing investment in the sector.

Parliament Week - 31 October to 6 November 2011

Parliament Week is a new national initiative from the UK Parliament. It will involve a programme of activities across the UK that explore how and why the House of Commons and the House of Lords matter to everyone. Parliamentary Outreach is planning a [number of FREE flagship events for Parliament Week](#).

National Human Rights Tour by the British Institute of Human Rights

There will be 16 [free-to-attend events](#) taking place across the UK between September and December 2011. Themes to be highlighted at the events will include:

- What's the role of human rights in a period of cut backs to public services?
- What is the role of human rights in protecting the vulnerable?
- Do human rights offer an effective tool for people wishing to challenge the impact of service cuts or changes?
- How do we make sure we balance one person's rights against the interests of society as a whole?

Rethink Community Development Workers host : Equality & Inclusion in Health & Social Care Event

Tuesday 11th October, 10am—1pm

This day is relevant for Health & Social care service providers, voluntary and statutory in South West Kent. Please see the attached flier for more information.

Voluntary Action Maidstone Annual Conference

Focusing on the future of volunteering; they have Rob Jackson, a former Director at Volunteering England, and Hugh Robertson Minister for Sport and Olympics speaking, as well as some informative workshops and master classes. Please see attached booking form.

The views expressed in this publication should not necessarily be taken as VAWK policy. Whilst every care is taken to provide accurate information, VAWK undertakes no liability for any error or omission.

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w www.vawk.org.uk

Offices also at
Edenbridge and Sevenoaks

Registered charity number 1108388 Registered company number 5354482



Quality accredited by





**Home-Start South West Kent
Invite you to the
18th Annual General Meeting
on**

**Thursday 29th September 2011
12 to 1.30pm
At**

Home-Start South West Kent, a company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England & Wales No 5104961
Registered Charity No 1105047



Home-Start South West Kent 18th Annual General Meeting
Thursday 29th September 2011

I/We will be pleased to accept
I/We regret I/We will be unable to attend

(Please delete as appropriate)

Name(s)

Your organisation

Penny Chatfield – Scheme Manager
116b London Road
Southborough
Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN4 0PN
Tel/Fax 01892 524916
Email: home-startswk@btconnect.com





10 WEEK ADULT COURSE

**Dyslexia
Action**

Assessment • Education • Training

EVERY MONDAY from 10:30am – 12.00pm

**Commencing Monday 3 October 2011
until Monday 12 December 2011 (except Monday 24 October)**

**VENUE: Dyslexia Action, Bridge House, 97-101 High Street,
Tonbridge, TN9 1DP**

BOOKING REQUIRED

£50* per person

* Special reduced rate offered thanks to Dyslexia Action's "It's Me!" Learning Fund



- Organisational skills
- Writing skills (including CV writing)

For more information contact:
Dyslexia Action Tonbridge Centre
T: 01732 352762 E: tonbridge@dyslexiaaction.org.uk
www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk

Dyslexia Action is the working name for Dyslexia Institute Limited, a charity registered in England and Wales (No.268502) and Scotland (No. SC039177) and registered in England as a company (No. 01179975)

Supporting Inclusion Together

Rethink Community Development
Workers host:

EQUALITY & INCLUSION IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE.

We will be providing:

- Opportunities for networking, partnership working and training.
- Information on the Equality Act 2010.
- Presentations and workshops on Inclusion in Mental health.

This day is relevant for:

- Health & Social care service providers, voluntary and statutory in South West Kent.

Date: Tuesday 11th October 2011.

Time: 10am-1pm (Networking Lunch provided)

Venue: Tonbridge Baptist Church, TN10 3HZ.



To register your place email cdw@rethink.org
or phone 01622 600 296



Voluntary & Community Sector Conference 2011

Friday 14th October – Maidstone Community Support Centre

BOOKING FORM & WORKSHOP CHOICES

You have the opportunity of attending one afternoon workshop. Please put your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice in the boxes provided –

- 1: Rob Jackson, international writer and speaker on volunteering
'The Philosophy of Volunteering'

- 2: Caroline Brinkman, Fundraiser at Heart of Kent Hospice,
'Volunteers & Fundraising – how to support volunteers to raise money'

- 3: Natalie Smith, Development Manager, Voluntary Action Maidstone and Maidstone Community Support Centre
Bridget Overton, Trustee,
'The Essential Volunteer- How to Attract and Recruit Effective Trustees'

Name	
Organisation & Address	
Email / Phone	

I am returning my form by post and I enclose a cheque made payable to VAM for £10.00	
I have emailed my form - Please send me an invoice for the booking fee	
I have emailed my form and will be forwarding a cheque – I do not require an invoice	

Sue Morbi, Office Manager
Voluntary Action Maidstone, 39-48
Marsham Street, Maidstone ME14
1HH 01622 677337

