

CaDVAS Newsletter

July 2009

Issue 8

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Thank you*

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Contact details

Don't forget our mobile number, which is:

07595 543411.

Please let us know if any of your contact details change so that we can keep our database up to date. If you receive this newsletter by post but do have an email address, please let us know so that we can email future mailings to you and so keep costs down. Thank you.

CaDVAS News

LSC / KentCAN / CaDVAS event

It was good to see such a large turnout for the event we co-organised with KentCAN and the LSC in Canterbury on June 24th. Around 60 people attended and there was a wide range of information stands in the 'marketplace'. We heard some interesting presentations and there were some lively discussions during the round table part of the session.

We would like to thank all of you who attended but the biggest thank you goes to **Carrie Wood** of **SNAAP** and **Paula Spencer** of **Thanington Neighbourhood Centre** for their contributions. Their presentations were both absolutely inspiring and we heard nothing but positive feedback about them. **Thank you both.**

Notes from the presentations and write-ups of the round table discussions are being compiled by KentCAN; we will post them on the website as soon as they are available.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Members' News



We are looking for Non-Executive Directors to join our Board

Skillnet Group Community Interest Company is a social enterprise (not-for-profit organisation) working with people with learning difficulties (sometimes called learning disabilities). The mission of the Skillnet Group is to support people to speak up, make choices, be heard and taken seriously.

We support people with and without learning difficulties to work together equally to develop projects and support networks and to change attitudes about disability in society generally.

We support people to develop opportunities and become more independent in all aspects of life, including; learning, work, housing, health, money, transport, leisure and relationships. We focus on making links within local communities so that people with a learning difficulty have an equal place as citizens within mainstream society and are not segregated.

We are looking for people to join our Board of Directors. We are looking for people with a wide range of skills and interests. We are particularly interested in hearing from people with learning difficulties and disabled people but applications are welcome from anyone with the right attitude!

The Board meets at least 6 times a year in East Kent. Board meetings overlap with our Decision Team meetings so that Board Members and Decision Team Members can work closely together. All directors are also expected to attend additional Skillnet Group events.

The posts are voluntary but we will be able to meet reasonable expenses. All directors receive induction training and we are currently developing a new training package for all directors.

These posts are for 3 years. Then directors automatically step down from the board unless people specifically vote for them to stay or unless there are not enough directors on the board at that time.

For an informal discussion to find out more and request an application pack, call Jo Kidd (Chief Executive):

Tel: 07968 105862 or 01227 752607

Fax: 01227 752607

E-mail: jo.kidd@skillnetgroup.co.uk

Web: www.skillnetgroup.co.uk

Informal interviews will be held at our Decision Team meeting.

Successful applicants will be needed to come to a following Board Meeting to be formally voted in.

(We will require you to undertake an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check for this post. You will also be required to declare all past convictions, whether spent or not, as this post is exempt from The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1984.)

Other News



Your Opinion Matters!

Kent Adult Social Services are looking for volunteers to help shape the future:

Kent Adult Social Services' overall objective is to empower the people of Kent to identify, choose and control the support or care they need to live safely and independently in their local communities. We are modernising our services to ensure that people get good quality advice, access to new short term enablement services and, if ongoing support is needed, will be able to use a personal budget to choose the right support to live life as they want.

We consider it vital that service users and carers are put first in all that we do, shaping our services around your needs and preferences.

We want your views to become an integral part of our culture and everyday thinking, and there are many ways that you can help us at a level to suit you:

- taking part in focus groups and/or being interviewed about services you receive:
- becoming a member of our user and carer panel
- helping to recruit new staff
- providing feedback, including taking part in surveys

Customer Care in East Kent (Canterbury, Swale, Dover, Thanet, Ashford and Shepway Districts) are looking to attract more volunteers who are interested in any of the above activities.

For further details and to sign up please contact Customer Care on:

Telephone: 01227 598 852 **Textphone (Minicom):** 08458 247 905

Email: CustomerCareEK@kent.gov.uk

BTCV urges debate on volunteer brokerage

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector, 23 June 2009

Conservation charity BTCV has called for a debate on the desirability of a national code to define an industry standard for volunteer brokerage.

Miles Sibley, development director at the charity, said brokerage had been an area of growth over the past few years and a range of codes and quality accreditations existed. But he said adherence to most of these was voluntary and there was no sector-wide standard. Organisations involved in volunteer brokerage, including BTCV, CSV and volunteer centres, should debate whether a code would be useful, he said.

Sibley said a code could include guidelines on the cost of brokerage and the extent to which brokers should be obliged to inspect the workplaces volunteers go to. It could also provide quality assurance and clarify the role of brokers in advising volunteers about their entitlement to Jobseeker's Allowance and providing local discussion networks.

The standard would be effective if it was branded and marketed in a similar way to the Investors in People standard, said Sibley.

"It would need to be a badge that brokerage organisations would want to wear and would be embarrassed not to have," he said. "Alternatively, the code could be embedded in the procurement process, so that organisations were obliged to meet its standards to fulfil contracts with the Government and local authorities."

Mike Locke, director of public affairs at Volunteering England, said he would welcome a debate on the issue. But he said the wide range of brokerage activities meant it could be difficult to implement a standardised system and it would need to be carefully planned to avoid extra bureaucracy.

Half of charity trustees find board reviews unsatisfactory

By John Plummer, Third Sector, 23 June 2009

Trustees have serious concerns about how the performance of their boards is reviewed, according to a survey by chief executives body Acevo.

Forty-nine per cent of those trustees who responded rated their own board's performance review as less than satisfactory. Only 10 per cent rated it better than satisfactory. "It's a massive worry," said Seb Elsworth, director of strategy at Acevo. "Boards not looking at their performance is one of the major problems in the sector."

He said the situation was likely to be even worse than the survey suggested, because it was based on a self-selecting sample of 200 trustees, whose decision to take part indicated that they took governance more seriously than most. "The vast majority of charities do not have any mechanism to review board performance," said Elsworth.

Trustees rated their boards' performance in 28 areas highlighted by the **Code of Good Governance**, which outlines best practice for voluntary organisations. Thirty per cent rated the handling of the chief executive's remuneration as unsatisfactory or very unsatisfactory. Elsworth said chief executives' pay was often left to the chair, and many trustees wanted more input. "The annual appraisal process should set measures by which chief executives are remunerated," he said.

The survey also uncovered concerns about succession planning at board level and the responsibilities of sub-committees. On the positive side, trustees rated their boards highly on integrity, dealing with conflicts of interest and maintaining independence.

The survey follows last month's **New Philanthropy Capital report Board Matters**, which described charity governance as haphazard and badly managed. Governance consultant Tesse Akpeki said she was worried that the two surveys might deter people from becoming trustees. "The findings don't surprise me," she said. "They are a worry, but there is so much despondency and even depression among boards at the moment that it is putting people off. "When I speak to boards, they say they know they have got to get better. But this negativity is making volunteers less willing to serve on boards. We can't afford to let the pool of trustees dry up, so we shouldn't keep hitting them over the head."

National Audit Office and Office of the Third Sector publications will help charities and public bodies cut red tape

By Natalie Woolman, Third Sector Online, 26 June 2009

Two new guides have been published to help public bodies reduce their monitoring demands on charities. **Intelligent Monitoring** and **Principles of Proportionate Monitoring** have been published by the National Audit Office and the Office of the Third Sector respectively. The publications say that cutting unnecessary red tape would allow third sector organisations to provide services more effectively.

Principles of Proportionate Monitoring says government departments should talk to charities when they are drawing up monitoring requirements. Rob Prideaux, director of third sector value for money services at the NAO, said

the new guidelines would lead to more reasonable monitoring of expenditure in the third sector.

Principles of Proportionate Reporting has been published in response to a report by New Philanthropy Capital published in September. It said being monitored by external bodies cost charities an average of 6p in every pound of funding they received.

Third sector minister Angela Smith said: "This announcement is one step in a programme of reform to bring the third sector's strengths into public services.

***Tell us what you think about any of our news items -
your comments are always welcome***

Training and Events



CaDVAS Training

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are in the process of planning our autumn training programme. We will send out details as soon as they are confirmed.



Publicity and Marketing Training

CASE Kent are holding a **Publicity and Marketing** course in **Ashford** on **Thursday 16th July, 10 am to 4 pm.**

*There are some places left but please note that the **closing date for applications** is **Friday 3rd July.***

The training will be delivered by **Michael Rose, who** has 30 years' experience working on corporate strategy, business development and marketing with major industrial companies. In 1996 he established his own business which provides innovative bio-organic solutions to waste management problems. He trained as

an economist and has an MBA from Cranfield University. Michael undertakes consultancy projects with non-profit organisations under the auspices of the Cranfield Trust.

Course objective: Provide an introduction to basic marketing concepts and show how an effective market strategy is the basis for a healthy and responsive organisation.

Course Outline:

1. What is marketing - the four "P's"
2. Market appraisal - understanding market structure and change.
3. Competitor analysis - just how good are we?
4. Targeting the customer - selecting priority customers.
5. Building the market plan - putting the four "P's" into practice.
6. Implementing the strategy - how to attract customers, and keep them!
7. Creating and developing a marketing focus in your organisation.
8. How do I find out..... - where can you find the information you need.

If you are interested in booking a place please contact **Liz Shihabi**, CASE Kent Administrator, as soon as possible, on:

Tel: 01233 610171

Email: ashford@casekent.org.uk



Community Resource Day

Age Concern Faversham are organising a **community resource day** on **Tuesday 14th July** at **The Alexandra Centre, Preston Street, Faversham.**

Admission is free. A variety of exhibitors will be attending including:

- Age Concern
- Boots
- Faversham library
- Faversham Umbrella Centre
- Staying put, Swale Volunteer centre
- Faversham community cafe
- Swale housing benefit
- Active living project

If you would like to attend or to exhibit at the event, please contact Michelle



Head or Karen Fluke on **01795 532766**.

One Vision Show at The Gulbenkian

A number of local people with learning difficulties from the **Skillnet Performing Arts group 'Risky Business'** are to perform a musical at the **Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury** on **Tuesday 7th July 2009**. The musical takes you on a journey of one man's struggle to live the same kind of life as anyone else through a series of sketches, poems and live music from a brilliant Queen Tribute band 'The Bohemians.'

For further information please contact-

chris.jennings@skillnetgroup.co.uk 07951 110998
louise.jones@skillnetgroup.co.uk 07966 791595
info@thebohemians.com

CDCA Network Event

The Canterbury District Community Alliance are holding a Network event on **Thursday 9th July, 12.30 - 3pm** at the **Seasalter Christian Centre, 49 Faversham Rd, Seasalter, Whistable**.

This event will look at the workings of the **Environment theme Group** of the **Canterbury Partnership** relating specifically to what the environment group are focusing on in Canterbury District and how the Community and the Voluntary Sector can take a more active role in promoting environmental initiatives both within their organisations as well as with their beneficiaries. As environmental issues are being increasingly acknowledged as of prime importance, this is an area which we can no longer afford to ignore.

Sue Davis, the Chair of the Environment theme group and the environment champion will be speaking at this meeting and will be there to answer any questions you may have.

If you would like to attend please do so by return of email: (alex@chbvc.org) **or telephone: 01227 768546.**

Please note that lunch will be provided

Funding Central: New Grant Search database

This new government funded grant search website operated by **The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)** and **The Office for the Third Sector (OTS)** has just been launched.

The website seeks to provide comprehensive information about national, local and regional government funding, national, local or regional charitable funding, and EU funding. The target audience for Funding Central is voluntary and community sector and social enterprises.

Further information on the website at: www.fundingcentral.org.uk

Comic Relief

Comic Relief has recently undertaken a review of its grants programmes and will operate the following grants schemes over the coming years:

- Mental Health
- Domestic and Sexual abuse
- Refugee and Asylum Seeking Women
- Sport for Change
- Young people aged 11-25 in areas such as Sexually Exploited & Trafficked Young people
- Young People and Alcohol
- Young people with Mental Health Problems.

There are no minimum or maximum grants for most of these programmes, but on average grants range **between £25,000-£40,000** per year. **Funding can be used to cover running costs.** However capital costs are rarely supported. Eligible applicants include: constituted voluntary and community groups, charities. The next deadline for bids is the **24th July 2009**.

Further information from UK Grants Team, Comic Relief, 5th Floor, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP

Tel: 020 78205555

Email: ukgrants@comicrelief.com

Comic Relief has also announced three new programmes coming soon: Young Carers (managed by the Princess Royal Trust for Carers); Older People and Local Communities (to be managed by Kent Community Foundation amongst others).

Henry Smith Charity

The Henry Smith Charity has designated a number of Counties in the South East (inc. Kent) as eligible under its 'County List, small grants programme. This charitable trust is one of the largest in the region, with a £25m annual grants programme supporting up to 1,000 organisations and charities delivering projects that address social inequality and economic disadvantage.

Kent County Council is tasked with encouraging applications to the County List grants programme and is seeking appropriate bids from local voluntary sector partners. Bids can be made for either one year or multi-year grants, ranging from between **£500 -£10,000** for a one year grant. For multi-year applications the maximum grant to be awarded could be **£20,000 over 3 years**.

Grants can be used to support: running costs (**including core costs and salaries**); project costs; one-off capital expenditure such as building refurbishment or equipment. Bidders must be a UK registered charity with an annual income of less than £250,000 per annum. Grants for capital items or projects must be used within six months of award.

Applications for small capital items can be made at any time. In the case of larger capital items or projects applications should only be made once 75% of the funding required has been secured.

Particular areas of funding that would interest the Henry Smith trustees include (further details of the county list - can be found on the website below):

- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
- Carers including young carers
- Community Service
- Disability
- Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Drugs & Alcohol/Substance Misuse
- Family Services
- Homelessness
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
- Mental Health
- Prisoners and Ex-offenders
- Prostitution & Trafficking
- Refugees & Asylum Seekers
- Young People

The Henry Smith trustees meet on a quarterly basis with the next meeting in September 2009. If you wish your application to be considered for that meeting please ensure that a completed application along with all relevant documentation is returned to John Taylor (contact details below) by 1 August 2009.

Further information:

John Taylor, CFE Policy Officer , Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ Tel: 01622 694867;

Email: john.taylor3@kent.gov.uk

Internet: www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/

For up-to-date news on other funding available, try the following contacts:

Kent4Community, which is a free web based grant search facility, at www.open4community.info/kent/; they also produce a regular e-newsletter; email administrator@open4community.info

Inside Track, the KCC External Funding service newsletter - email externalfunding@kent.gov.uk to be added to their mailing list or contact Martyn Riley, External Funding Officer, Chief Executives Department, KCC. Tel: 01622 694384; Email: martyn.riley@kent.gov.uk for more information.

j4bCOMMUNITY.co.uk produce a regular funding newsletter; email newsletter@j4bcommunity.co.uk

Funding Buddies, a programme to assist community and voluntary groups access funding opportunities. It will also develop training courses to increase and enhance the skills of community organisations. Contact Kent Funding Buddies on

Tel: 01303 813790

Fax: 01303 814203

Mobile: 07900 560235

Email: nigel.turley@ruralkent.org.uk

Website: www.fundingbuddiesinkent.org.uk

If you have difficulty contacting any of the above, please feel free to contact CaDVAS for further information and advice.



If you have articles for inclusion in the next issue, please contact Sue Tucker:

Tel: 01227 452381 Mob: 07595 543411 Email: info@cadvas.org

Deadline for items for the next newsletter: Midday on Friday 31st July -

thank you.

Registered Office: Tower Works, Simmonds Road, Wincheap Business Park, Canterbury,
Kent. CT1 3RA.

Charity No: 1125359 Company No: 6584654.

CaDVAS can also be contacted c/o: Whitstable Volunteer Centre, St Mary's Hall, Oxford
Street, Whitstable. CT5 1DD

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