

Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service

Newsletter

May 2010



An animated discussion between Cllr. Roger Newstead and CVS Manager, Des Shepherd at the recent Voluntary Sector Forum.



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CVS Network Lunch

Monday 17 May in Merstham.

Full details on Page 3. To book a place e-mail
carol@rbcvs.org.uk

Contents

Manager's Notes	Page 2
Dates for your Diary.....	Page 2
News and Events.....	Pages 2-4
Training.....	Page 5
Jobs	Page 5
Health.....	Page 6
Contact Us.....	Page 6

Welcome...

Last week we had the much anticipated UK general election and for the first time in over 30 years, we have a hung Parliament. This has subsequently led to a formal coalition. So what are the implications for the voluntary and community sector?

Whilst there are proposals for a fixed term Parliament, until that is approved it's likely that any arrangements could be incredibly insecure. One thing is certain is the need to cut spending to deal with the financial deficit. An emergency budget is on the cards and businesses, local authorities and charities are likely to be unable to take long-term decisions due to the current uncertainty. Many people suggest financial markets will panic if no single party is returned with an overall majority, pushing up interest rates. Others argue that a fiscal consolidation budget approved by more than one of the main parties could, paradoxically, enjoy greater public consent.

In the short term, the success of the coalition largely rests on degree of agreement between the parties forming the coalition. It is unlikely the political parties will wish to fight another general election so soon after this one – particularly due to financial constraints. The plans for a fixed term Parliament are seen as a way of ensuring a longer term stable administration. The NCVO suggest that if we want our issues to be counted and taken forward we will quickly have to position ourselves within the political agenda regardless of political persuasion.

Meanwhile in Reigate & Banstead, the local Borough elections saw five new councillors elected. We don't yet know who will be the Executive Councillor responsible for Partnerships & Communities but when it is announced, we will be seeking a meeting to discuss the current concerns of the voluntary sector.

Finally a reminder – our next Network Lunch is taking place in Merstham as part of the Happy Healthy Merstham Week and has a full line-up of speakers. Full details are on page 3 and we hope you are able to come.

Des Shepherd (Manager)

Dates for your diary...

17th May 2010 – Network Lunch. 12.30 – 2pm

Please note this will take place in Merstham at Age Concern and is in conjunction with the Happy and Healthy Merstham event **17th May**

2010 – Volunteer Centre Drop-in Session in Merstham.

2-3.30pm at Age Concern, Weldon Way, Merstham.

19th July 2010 – Network Lunch 12.30 – 2pm at the Banstead Centre, Banstead.

And next year . . .

5th March 2011 – Voluntary Sector Fair, Harlequin Theatre, Redhill.

Network Lunch – Monday 17 May 2010

Venue: Age Concern Day Centre in Weldon Way, Merstham.

Time: 12.30pm to 2pm (speakers from 1pm).

Merstham is one of four Priority Places in Surrey, as identified by the Surrey Strategic Partnership. Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service will be debating the impact of this at their next 'Network Lunch' taking place in Merstham on Monday 17 May 2010.

The aim of the meeting is to explore the benefits Merstham will gain from being designated a Priority Place and the impact on local residents.

Speakers include:

- Lynne Martin - Area Support Assistant, Local Partnerships Team-Reigate & Banstead

- County Councillor Dr Zully Grant-Duff

- Helen Hawkins – Merstham Community Facility Trust

- Pascale Siddall - Merstham Neighbours

To book a place please call 01737 763156 or e-mail carol@rbcvs.org.uk

Voluntary & Community Groups in the North of the Borough

If you would like to let people know about your services or you are looking to recruit new volunteers in this area then please speak to the Reigate & Banstead Volunteer Centre on 01737 762 115. There are some opportunities coming up this summer in early June and July to have a presence at the heart of community events in this part of the borough. If you cannot be there yourselves then let us represent you at these family fun days, email janet@rbcvs.org.uk.

Bead & Wirework Workshops

The East Surrey College are offering the chance to learn how to make your own jewellery and help St Catherine's Hospice at the same time.

On Saturday 22nd May, 3 workshops will take place at the Bletchingley Education Centre, Stychens Lane, Bletchingley, RH1 4LL.

Interested? Call 01737 788445 or see the East Surrey College website at www.esc.ac.uk.

Downlands Projects – Come and Have a Go!

The Downlands and Old Surrey Downs Projects have just finalised their new programme of practical conservation volunteering opportunities across Surrey and South London for the summer, including ragwort pulling, step construction and much more! Please do get in touch if you would like to receive a copy of the programme and give it a try!

Their projects are also running a lovely programme of events, including guided walks and tours of our beautiful sites over the next few months. For example, they have a visit to Banstead Downs on **Thursday 27 May** from 11am-1pm. Please visit www.downlandsproject.org.uk for further information or e-mail downlands@surreycc.gov.uk or call 01737 737700.

Striving to Thrive: New Low Fee!

The **Striving to Thrive Conference**, taking place on **30th June** at the **Royal Holloway College, Egham**, is now in receipt of extra funds and can therefore lower its fee to attendees. Members will now pay £15, non-members £20. For further information see www.surreyca.org.uk or call 01483 459292 ext 216 or e-mail anneb@surreyca.org.uk to book.

Merstham Neighbours

We are delighted to announce the launch of this exciting new community scheme, that was celebrated recently with the Mayor and other community representatives.



50 local volunteers are offering practical help to anyone in the RH1 3 postcode area who can't find it elsewhere. Merstham Neighbours can help with things like transport, form-filling, shopping, collecting prescriptions or simply drop in for a chat, whatever a 'friendly neighbour' might do. They are available for people of all ages. Donations are requested to cover petrol costs for any journeys but all other help is free. All volunteers are trained, CRB-checked, insured and carry verifiable id badges.

For help or further information please phone 07733 555 316 between 10 & 12 noon, Monday to Friday. Please give the team between 2 days' and 2 weeks' notice for any requests. If you would like any leaflets or business cards to give to people you work with then please email mersthamneighbours@gmail.com.



We have enjoyed working with Surrey Community Action and the Merstham Community Development Worker to help this group get set up and now we want to get the word out there so their services are well used. Please tell people about it and if you think your area could benefit from a similar scheme please speak to Helen Hawkins on 07772 455095.

Charities Wasting Resources on Poorly Targeted Funding Bids

Research by the Directory of Social Change (DSC) indicates that over one-third of applications to UK charitable grantmakers in the last year were ineligible. They point out that if fundraisers ensure basic eligibility their chance of success increases significantly.

For further information and advice see www.trustfunding.org.uk or contact Richard Lee, Directory of Social Change by email rlee@dsc.org.uk or phone (020 7391 4881, 0797 008 7207).

Small Charity Week: 14-18 June 2010

Fundraising Opportunity: Give at Checkout Challenge To mark Small Charity Week, Mission Fish and eBay will be showcasing selected small charities as part of their 'Give at Checkout' function.

eBay shoppers can choose to add a donation to their purchase when completing a PayPal transaction. The option to give is seen by millions of shoppers each month, and has already raised £2m for UK charities.

For this to work, they need to find small charities who are committed to their work and dedicated to making a difference. For more details and to apply, see www.missionfish.org.uk.

Charity Auction

During Small Charity Week, the FSI will be coordinating an eBay Charity Auction to help raise funds. See the website for more information and to get involved.

Dealing with Difficult People in the Workplace

Difficult people come in every variety and no workplace is without them. Ladder4learning have prepared a useful briefing sheet which is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/y48zv2>

Training

Equality and Diversity - Effective Implementation - One Day Workshop

Late on 06 April The Equality Bill 2009 was passed by Parliament; it now goes on for Royal Assent to become the Equality Act 2010. In simple terms this means most if not all Public Sector Bodies and Organisations will have to have a Single Equality Scheme and Impact Assessments in place for October 2010

If you think this will have an impact on your organisation, training is available through Excellence in Learning. See their website for further details: www.excellence-in-learning.co.uk

Mentoring & Befriending Training

The Mentoring & Befriending Foundation have launched their new training programme on their website, www.mandbf.org.uk. Take a look for further information.

'Planning a Project for Youth Volunteers' FREE Workshop

Tuesday 25 May 2010

9.45am-1pm, (*coffee served from 9.15am*)

Bourne Hall, Ewell

This workshop is for volunteer coordinators/managers/volunteers within voluntary and community organisations in Surrey.

The aim of this workshop is to provide information and ideas about how organisations can engage youth volunteers by offering taster projects. If planned well, these can be a very effective means of attracting new volunteers and encouraging them to consider doing more regular volunteering within your organisation.

Contact Chris Pearsall at chris.pearsall@ymcaredhill.com for further information and to book.

Jobs

Reigate & Redhill YMCA have the following opportunities:

Part Time Special Needs Co-Ordinator

There are 2 roles available at the Princes Rd YIPPEE Club and the Banstead YIPPEE Club, each for 18 hours per week (additional hours may be available). You will need a Level 3 relevant qualification or above and be able to travel between all children's services sites. Pay £10.48 per hour.

Trampoline Coach

For Children's Classes on Wednesday and/or Thursday afternoons during school term time. You will need a Level Two relevant qualification or above. Additional hours may be available, pay £10.00-£15.00 per hour

Various Playworker Roles

YMCA run an after school club, holiday schemes, Saturday clubs for children with complex needs and other activities. They currently have various job roles available including; After School Club Play Staff, Holiday Club Play Staff, Holiday Club Sports Staff, Special Needs Play Staff and Birthday Party Staff (Weekend afternoons).

You will need a Level 2 relevant qualification or above, however training will be provided. All applicants must be aged 18+ (*16+ if completed the **V**involved volunteer training program*). Pay from £6.09-£7.19 per hour.

For all of these posts please apply to Debbie Linton, e-mail deborah.linton@ymcaredhill.com or call 01737 784974.

Health

NICE Launches Public Website Page

The Nation Institute For Clinical Excellence has launched a website page accessible to the general public. This page contains guidance for patients and carers that, whilst it had available in other forms, has never been in one place for easy access. See www.nice.org.uk/patientsandpublic .

Your Experience Could Help Improve Services

Victims of major trauma are often left with life-changing disabilities and conditions. The NHS Major Trauma Improvement Forum are looking for those who have had such experiences to tell them about the service they were given, so that they can find ways to improve those services and provide the best possible care in the future. For further information and to be part of the survey go to www.majortrauma.net or call 020 7 239 7806

Meeting Older People's Social and Emotional Aspirations: how care and support agencies can encourage hope, freedom, fun, achievement and a sense of belonging

Thursday 1 July 2010 at the Inmarsat Conference Centre, 99 City Road, London EC1. For further information and to book, contact Lemos and Crane on 020 8348 8263, e-mail conferences@lemosandcrane.co.uk or see www.lemosandcrane.co.uk

Health & Safety: Lighting

The Health & Safety Executive recently released details on new legislation on lighting in the workplace. For information go to: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/nonionising/optical.htm>

Contact Us

If you have any queries regarding anything in this Newsletter, please contact us as below:

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