



March 2011

Welcome to the latest Gedling CVS ebulletin

Welcome to the ebulletin for Gedling Community and Voluntary Services. It includes items of interest to voluntary and community groups, many of which may have short deadlines to respond to. I hope you will feel it is relevant to your work.

Feedback is welcomed at anytime as to how it can be improved or just what you think of the ebulletin as a resource. You can email any comments or suggestions to info@gedlingcvs.org.uk.

Visit our website for more up-to-date information, see our latest newsletter, Community Eye, as well as more news and funding from previous e-bulletins that you may have missed - www.gedlingcvs.org.uk

If you think a friend or colleague would benefit from this e-newsletter then please send us their details so we can contact them to be registered.

Kind Regards

Jean Ramsden/Melanie Russell-Smith
Frontline Services Managers
Gedling CVS

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Gedling CVS News

New Website

Gedling CVS has a new look website where we shall be putting the latest information for the sector. There is also a 'Diary Page' for events, conferences, trainings etc. So if you are holding any of these and would like to have them included in our website please email: info@gedlingcv.org.uk.

“Strengthening Community Action”

Gedling CVS offers a range of services including: Volunteer Centre, funding advice, newsletter, library, Community and Voluntary Transport scheme; group support including getting groups involved in local initiatives. If you would like

any information or support from any of these services please email:
admin@gedlingcvs.org.uk.

Gedling Volunteering Forum – Tuesday 12 April 2010

A forum for all voluntary organisations/community groups who work with volunteers. Venue: Brickyard Community Centre, Honeywood Estate, Nottingham. Time: 10 00am – 12 00 noon. Further details from: Sonia Lane, Volunteering Development Worker, Gedling CVS. Tel: 0115 987 1981 or email: volunteering@gedlingcvs.org.uk.

First Aid for the Appointed Person training

Thursday 5 May, 10 00 am – 3 00pm at Guide Headquarters, 16-18 Burton Road, Carlton, Nottingham. For details about costs and booking see <http://www.gedlingcvs.org.uk/learning-events/local-training-courses/>

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Training, Events and Campaigns

Register your Big Lunch!

Registration for **The Big Lunch 2011** is now open! Register now to receive your free Starter Pack which contains a step-by-step guide to help you get your event off the ground, invitations, posters, 'crowd cooking' ideas, stickers and much more. The Big Lunch is a very simple idea from the Eden Project. The aim is to get as many of the 61 million people in the UK as possible to have lunch with their neighbours once a year; it's happening on Sunday 5 June 2011. Your event can be anything from a simple lunch in your garden to a huge street party. Nearly 1 million people took part last summer.

You can also register your event over the phone, by calling 0845 850 8181 and speaking to one of the team or online at www.thebiglunch.com/join-in/tell-us-about-your-big-lunch.php. www.thebiglunch.com

[Source: Voluntary Arts Network 03.03.11]

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Consultations, Meetings and Networks

Age Uk Nottm and Notts Reaching Out To Carers Pilot Project

This new project, funded by the Department of Health, seeks to identify carers in the early stages of their responsibilities, or when after struggling for some time, they come to identify themselves as carers and need advice and support.

AGE UK can inform them of the support and advice that is available and possibly inspire them to continue to live a life in addition to their caring responsibilities (such as taking up an old hobby or sport).

The funders are asking us to primarily target the project through hospitals, places of worship, groups and supermarkets.

If anyone reading this, knows of anyone who would benefit from a discussion with the Co-ordinators, please speak to Age UK or suggest that the carer contact either Nigel Cruickshank or Liam Lambert on **0115-9194872/3**.

If you belong to, or know of a place of worship/ community group that Age UK could speak to you are also welcome to give us contact details.

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Funding

Department of Health Volunteering Fund Local Grant Scheme

The Department of Health Volunteering Fund provides grant funding and other forms of support to organisations, aimed at enhancing their capacity and ability in the health and social care field. The local grant scheme will be launched in Spring 2011 but before that half day information sessions will take place.

Look out for more information at www.volunteeringfund.com or ring the helpline on 0845 172 8058 for further information.

Children in Need Grants Deadline - 15 April 2011

Children in Need grants of £10,000 or less per year are available for up to 3 years for UK charities and not for profit organisations working with disadvantaged children and young people.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants/>

[Source: Enable e-bulletin 4 March 2011]

Foyle Foundation Small Grants

The [Foyle Foundation Small Grants Scheme](#) is designed to support smaller charities in the UK, especially those working at grass roots and local community level.

Technology4Good Awards

The [Technology4Good Awards](#) celebrate work which enables people to improve their lives through the use of IT. Deadline: 9 May 2011.

[Source: LINX 172, 24 March 2011]

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Environment and Sustainability

Climate Week 2011

Climate Week highlights the many positive steps already being taken in workplaces and communities across Britain. Thousands of businesses, charities, schools, councils and others will run events during Climate Week. 21-27 March. <http://www.climateweek.com/>

[Source: NAVCA LINX 169, 3 March 2011]

Green Alliance Debate 2011

"This government needs to do more than nudge us towards sustainable living" is the subject of the Green Alliance annual debate. 30 March, London.

<http://www.green-alliance-event.org.uk/>

[Source: NAVCA LINX 169, 3 March 2011]

Embedding Sustainability at the Heart of Government

Plans to build a stronger green government have been announced by Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman. See Defra website <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/news/2011/02/28/embedding-sustainability-at-the-heart-of-government/>

[Source: NAVCA LINX 169, 3 March 2011]

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Resources

The Safe Network

The Safe Network launched the Safe Network Standards and Self-Assessment Tool at its conference in London on 17 February 2011.

Organisations and groups in the voluntary and community sector offer rich experiences to children and young people. Whether you're enjoying the great outdoors, nurturing their creativity or teaching them more about their culture and community, there's now a set of standards and guidance to make safeguarding children easier.

Using the Safe Network Standards will help you ensure that your work with children and young people is:

- as safe as possible;
- enjoyable and rewarding for all involved;
- compliant with legislation.

As part of the standards, the Safe Network also unveiled a new online self-assessment tool to make assessing your organisation or group's safeguarding arrangements as easy as possible and help you produce an action plan to target any weak areas of your safeguarding practice. The tool provides you with a load of helpful resources such as example policies and procedures, sample letters and forms. You need to be registered on the Safe Network website to be able to access the self-assessment tool and the resources. Registration is simple and free. www.safenetwork.org.uk

[Source: Voluntary Arts Network 03.03.11]

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News Update

Budget 2011 News

A few items of particular relevance from Wednesday's Budget announcement. Numbered paragraphs are copied from the Budget report, available from http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_documents.htm.

**** Gift Aid** reforms include a pledge by the Chancellor for administration to be much easier by 2013, with the introduction of an online system. There is a 'quid pro quo' though on the Self Assessment charity donation facility: to help fund the introduction of Gift Aid online filing, the Government will withdraw SA Donate for tax returns for 2011-12 onwards (para 2.115).

2.112 Gift Aid benefit limits - The Gift Aid benefit limit will be increased from £500 to £2,500, subject to the existing 5 per cent limit, from April 2011. New guidance will be published to help clarify what constitutes a benefit.

2.113 Gift Aid small donations scheme - From April 2013, the Government will introduce a new scheme to allow charities to claim Gift Aid on up to £5,000 of small donations without the need for Gift Aid declarations.

2.114 Gift Aid online filing - The Government confirms that it will introduce an online system for charities to claim Gift Aid and as a first step will shortly be publishing 'intelligent' forms (which contain automatic checks) for charities to use to apply for and claim tax reliefs.

**** Increase in car mileage allowances** from 40p (as they have been since 2002) and extension of passenger rate to cover volunteers:

2.136 Approved Mileage Allowance Payments (AMAPs) rates from 2011-12 – From 6 April 2011, the AMAPs rates will rise to 45 pence per mile for the first 10,000 miles and 25 pence per mile thereafter. In addition to claiming AMAPs rates, an allowance for passenger payments currently in place for business employees, at 5 pence per passenger per mile, will be extended to volunteers.

**** Community Investment Tax Relief** is to be retained (it has to be 'renotified' to the European Commission) and there will be a consultation on how it can be made more effective (para 2.39).

[Source: VolResource Newsletter No. 471]

Small Hiccup in Abolition of Default Retirement Age

The regulations bringing in the abolition of the Default Retirement Age (of 65) have had to be revised due a small confusion caused by a drafting error. They are still due to be effective from 6 April, and the ACAS information and booklet 'Working without the default retirement age' is probably still the best place to start, <http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3203>.

[Source: VolResource Newsletter No. 468]

The Three Rs of Volunteer Rights and Management

The Volunteer Rights Inquiry, set up by Volunteering England, is asking all volunteer involving organisations to sign up to the "3R promise", which they are putting forward as a way to raise standards of volunteer management. The three Rs are based on: getting it Right from the beginning, ways to achieve Reconciliation if things go wrong, and accepting Responsibility. More details, a list of current supporters and a form to sign up are at

<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/Policy/Volunteer+Rights+Inquiry>.

[Source: VolResource Newsletter No. 468]

Government Minister's Reasonableness Test for Council Cuts

The Government Minister for Communities and Local Government Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, stated at NCVO's Annual Conference in March that he expects local authorities to behave reasonably in the way they manage their relationship with voluntary and community groups. Three tests of reasonableness are: not passing on disproportionate cuts, talk to sector groups at a very early stage about how services need to change, and at least three months' notice of funding changes. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/news/civil-society/local-authorities-should-behave-reasonably-says-eric-pickles>

[Source: VolResource Newsletter No. 468]

Community Organisers Fund

The government has announced that [Locality](#), the new organisation formed through the merger of the Development Trusts Association and BASSAC, has been chosen to deliver and train 5,000 community organisers. Community Organisers will work closely with communities to identify local leaders, projects and opportunities, and empower the local community to improve their local area. See [Cabinet Office website](#) and opportunities, and empower the local community to improve their local area. See [Cabinet Office website](#).

[Source: NAVCA LINX 169, 3 March 2011]

Digital TV switchover – support for groups from Age UK Notts

Television viewers in recent weeks cannot have failed to notice the messages about the upcoming switch to digital TV. Analogue TV signals will be turned off and Freeview services boosted to reach all areas. After switchover, virtually all homes will be able to receive digital TV free via an aerial.

Switchover in the Central TV region starts at the end of March and continues until September 2011. Local charity Age UK Notts is working across Nottinghamshire to raise awareness of switchover and the Switchover Help Scheme, offering advice and information to those people who might need a little extra support getting ready, such as:

- Older people
- People who are socially isolated
- People with sensory, mobility or dexterity impairments
- People who have mental health conditions
- People with English as a second language
- People with learning difficulties

Age UK Notts can provide free briefing sessions to staff and volunteers working within VCS groups who work with any of the groups above. Grants are available to fund events, activities and initiatives that help to raise awareness. Contact Alex Sinclair on 0115 8440011 or email alex.sinclair@ageuknotts.org.uk for more information.

Inquiry to be Launched into the Big Society

The Public Administration Select Committee is to launch an inquiry into the Big Society in an effort to pinpoint how to make it a success and identify actions that the government can take to promote it in light of criticism over the last few

weeks.

Read the full article on One East Midland's website

<http://www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/news.php?readmore=1400>

[Source: In Focus with One EM - March 2011]

Criminal Records Check Cost Increase and Website Moves

From 6 April, the costs of an Enhanced CRB check is to increase to forty four pounds. Other fees remain the same.

The CRB website (<http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk>) is to disappear from 31 March, and you will need to enable cookies to access the current site. It will be replaced by a combination of DirectGov (<http://www.direct.gov.uk>) and BusinessLink (<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk>) - organisations will want the latter, looking under Employment > Recruiting.

[Source: VolResource Newsletter No. 471]

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Jean Ramsden/Melanie Russell-Smith
Frontline Services Managers
Gedling Community and Voluntary Services
22a Main Road
Gedling

Nottingham
NG4 3HP

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