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For updates on Devon Consortium Projects

- CCD-Community Hubs
- DACVS - Third Sector development
- Living Options-Service User Engagement
- DACVS - Total Support
- DACVS-Volunteer Activity Management
- DACVS -Volunteer Support Services
- DACVS-Voluntary Voice

Please visit the Devon Consortium website www.devonconsortium.net for information on projects run by the Devon Consortium

The Council for Voluntary Service for Torridge District

It's a New Year and another set of challenges for the Voluntary and Community Sector as Devon County Council, NHS Devon and our District Councils face difficult budget decisions, as many groups are having to deal with substantial changes to the way they are funded and with Localism and all that entails looming on the horizon. In this newsletter and over the coming months we hope to be able to provide local groups with the information and support they need to manage any risks and to help them take advantage of any new opportunities that may emerge. Facing the Future – with its menu of training and bespoke support for local groups – continues until September 2012, so if you have not yet taken advantage of this highly subsidised support, please get in touch. Our second VCS Health and Social Care forum was held on January 19th and we hope that these regular meetings and the health Briefings that accompany them will be useful to many of you. With representatives now established on key County wide strategic groups through the Voluntary Voice project, local groups should now have the means to get their voice better heard as key services are designed/redesigned, and we will soon be actively looking for local people to represent the sector on emerging local partnerships. Watch this space.....

Business in the Community stands for Responsible Business



BITC is one of the Prince's Charities. They are a UK-wide, business-led charity with a growing membership of over 850 companies and a further 10,700 engaged in our campaigns. Through our members we have an employee reach of 16.8 million. Together we are one of the largest and most influential leadership networks focused on driving responsible business practice. We work locally and nationally through 11 regional teams and internationally with 115 global partners.

BITC also works directly with 3rd sector organisations and shape partnerships aimed at working together to transform communities and tackle key social issues where business can make a real difference, especially in deprived areas. Our main themes are: environmental sustainability; marketplace behaviour; workplace and employees; education and young people; employment; and, enterprise and renewal.

If you would like to know how your organisation could get involved with our programmes then please contact Jason Sculthorpe, Community Impact Manager, Devon and Cornwall Office, Plymouth, TEL: 07917127290

Focus on Bideford Bay Creatives (BBC)

2011 What a year! Bideford Bay Creatives were commissioned in April by Bideford Town Council and the Joint Delivery Team at North Devon Plus, to design six lamppost banners for Haywood and Kingsley Roads. On the first Friday of May BBC introduced the American styled First Fridays to Bideford, opened by the Mayor of Manteo via Skype, this continued through the summer months. June saw the exhibition of a Postcard Exchange in the Burton Art Gallery and in Dare County Arts Council's (DCAC) gallery in Manteo, North Carolina; this had been a partnership project with DCAC and also later with the 'Friends of the Burton'. In September and October they added some colour to the town with the third year of Culture Show, art in non-gallery spaces, which included a series of art walks and workshops.

Already planned for 2012 Following a grant from AONB, they have been tasked to introduce children and young people to their natural environment through a series of photographic workshops. These will happen throughout January through local youth groups and clubs that they will partner with. There will also be banner making workshops for children later in the year. There will be more First Fridays, collaborations, creative networking, exhibitions, and dreaming next year.

How you can be part of it Join the group if you do anything creative; offer the group some storage space for the materials for the banners project; be a venue for the Culture Show; offer temporary use of an empty shop; get involved in First Fridays as a performer or participant. Bideford Bay Creatives are looking for volunteers to help out with some of their events, particularly assisting with a banner making workshop after Easter. Please contact us at info@bbcdevon.org if you can help or would like more details or email us with suggestions and ideas of how we can work together.

Sector News

Other news from the Sector:

Localism Act

The Localism Act has now received royal assent. It gives additional rights and powers to communities including making it easier for people to take over local assets like shops and pubs (through the community right to bid) and giving local groups the right to express an interest in taking over the running of a local/district authority service (the community right to challenge). A briefing note has been produced by NCVO and can be found at <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/news/legislation/localism-act-receives-royal-assent>

Review of the Charities Act 2006

It was announced last week that Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbots will lead a full review of the law relating to charities in England and Wales. Lord Hodgson will report to Parliament by summer 2012. For more information see - <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/review-charity-law> and for the Terms of Reference of the Review see - <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/review-charities-act-2006-%E2%80%93-terms-reference>

Vat Exemption for Charities that share services

In his autumn statement, the Chancellor announced an exemption that allows charities to share services without paying VAT will come into effect from February 2012. For more comments on the impact of the autumn statement on the Third Sector, you can read the Charities Aid Foundation statement at <https://www.cafonline.org/media-office/press-releases/2011/nov-2011/response-to-autumn-statement.aspx>

New Charity Guide to Social Investment

New Philanthropy Capital has launched a new guide to social investment for charities entitled "Best to Borrow". It highlights both the risks and opportunities of new forms of social finance and investment and is an excellent plain english guide. You can read the full report at http://www.philanthropycapital.org/publications/improving_the_sector/Social%20investment/guide_to_social_investment.aspx

EHRC Home Care Providers

Providers engaged in supporting people to live in their own homes will be interested in a recent EHRC inquiry which reveals disturbing evidence that the poor treatment of many older people receiving home care is breaching their human rights and too many are struggling to voice their concerns about their care or be listened to about what kind of support they want. The final report of the Commission's inquiry, '**Close to home: older people and human rights in home care**', says hundreds of thousands of older people lack protection under the Human Rights Act and calls for this legal loophole to be closed. The report questions a number of commissioning practices that give more weight to cost than to an acceptable quality of care. The full report can be found at <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/inquiries-and-assessments/inquiry-into-home-care-of-older-people/>

Getting your costs right – a case study

The VCS commissioning project has recently completed a case study of how a small organisation can get the costs right when bidding for a tender. The study can help you identify direct and indirect costs, work out depreciation and staffing costs and how to price your service. The case study can be found at: <http://www.devonconsortium.net/index.php?page=case-studies>

New Strategy from the Charity Commission

The Commission has, over recent months, been developing a new strategy that sets out the key goals and priorities for the next four years.

Compliance and accountability

Improving the way risk in charities is assessed and managed; a continuing focus on producing excellent guidance that helps trustees manage those risks; taking decisive action when serious malpractice is discovered charities. Placing renewed emphasis on ensuring the online Register provides the right information about charities. Getting tougher on charities that fail to file their annual documents and accounts within the 10-month deadline.

Self-sufficiency

Helping trustees become more self-sufficient and independent – with greater confidence in their ability to make the right judgements and decisions on behalf of their charities.

Producing the best guidance possible, that is tailored where necessary to different groups of charities and which is principle-based, allowing trustees to apply it to their own charities' situation. Working with charity umbrella bodies to help them take over more responsibility for providing one-to-one advice to individual charities.

Using technology

Continuing to emphasise commission's on-line services - from this year onwards, all charities are being asked to file their annual documents online.

Making the website easier to use for charities and members of the public. Developing the way new tools, such as social media, are used to explain to trustees and to the public what charities are and how they should be run. Trying to develop innovative ways of keeping trustees informed about their duties.

Improving efficiency

Reducing the time it takes us to answer charities' emails or register new charities. For further information go to: www.charitycommission.gov.uk

Talking Health

from

dacvs :: local focus :: county voice
strengthening local voluntary and community action in Devon



What is happening to GP Commissioning?

The Government's ambition is for the NHS to deliver health outcomes that are among the best in the world. This ambition is rooted in the three principles of *giving patients more information and choice, focusing on healthcare outcomes and quality standards, and empowering frontline professionals with a strong leadership role*. At the heart of these proposals is the development of **Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)**, supported by the NHS Commissioning Board (NHSCB).

Sector News

CCGs – primarily GP representatives and clinicians - will be responsible for commissioning the majority of local health services, but they will have statutory obligations for obtaining advice from other health and care professionals and involving patients and the public in doing this. Working closely with their local authorities and partner organisations through Health and Wellbeing Boards they will undertake a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and determine their commissioning plans.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) Development

The Devon Primary Care Trust (PCT) cluster (which now comprises of NHS Devon, Plymouth & Torbay), existing CCG leads and Devon Local Medical Committee have spent the last month considering the various options for what CCGs will look like in Devon. There are still a number of uncertainties across the Country, however voting papers and briefing documents have been sent to individual practices to make a decision about the preferred option the practice wishes to vote for; the results are expected by the end of the year. When the CCG 'footprint' – its size and the area/s it will cover - has been decided, local structures will be reviewed to ensure there is an operational 'fit' with the larger, overarching structure and these are likely to be defined by the New Year. After this, a further local election for the local commissioning group will take place. Despite the changes taking place, local decisions will continue to be made by local clinicians which will determine the services provided for their populations.

Health Funding 2012/13

There is currently no formal commissioning timetable applicable to voluntary sector provision for the NHS in Devon, but there are some key messages and interests that the local commissioners wish to share and which would be considered as part of the development of a local health strategy. They include:

- Supporting provision that maintains an individual's health and wellbeing and therefore contributes to the avoidance of episodes of urgent or unplanned care
- Exploring/piloting and testing services and activities on a small scale which have the potential to develop effectively and consistently across Northern Devon
- Services or activities that align well to statutory provision and support individuals with lower level needs that are not currently being met – i.e. prevention
- Services that offer value for money and flexible solutions – though commissioners are increasingly aware that value for money from the VCS does not mean free of charge!
- Working with a smaller number of providers, but avoiding replication or duplication of what works well already
- Move towards commissioned services – i.e. through contracts and service specifications – rather than grants
- Things that can be evaluated and can clearly demonstrate a positive impact on a patient's health and well being.

Devon Health and Wellbeing Board Development

Final Arrangements for the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board are awaiting the outcome of a series of national learning sets which will produce guidelines for local Health and Wellbeing Boards. Devon plans that a shadow Health and Wellbeing Board for Devon will be in place by 1st April 2012. The importance of strong voluntary and community sector links is acknowledged along with the need for engagement with a range of other organisations who have a part to play in the health and social care agenda such as Police and Fire. There will be an opportunity for these organisations and the sector to contribute towards the developmental phase in the Spring.

Devon Prevention Strategy 'Promoting Health & Wellbeing' 2011-2013

The prevention strategy is a very detailed document setting out the commissioning intentions of Devon County Council and NHS Devon around prevention. It aims to help people maintain their independence and wellbeing and through early intervention, avoid unnecessary admission to hospital or longer term care. The strategy identifies a number of key ways to achieve this:

- Promoting volunteering
- Reducing falls and preventing fractures
- Promoting assistive technology
- Developing reablement services
- Implementing self care
- Delivering intermediate care
- Investing in extra housing.

The strategy also emphasises the need to evaluate the success of intervention to inform future financial planning and to promote joint working across the system to make most efficient use of preventative services. There are a number of key stages where the strategy suggests that intervention might take place and which are relevant to services provided by the VCS:

- Universal (primary) intervention e.g. stopping smoking or lifestyle information
- Targeted prevention e.g. self care, support for people to remain living at home
- Focused prevention e.g. falls prevention
- Work to reduce vulnerability e.g. volunteering, activities that promote social engagement
- Work to promote independence e.g. reablement services
- Work to reduce high dependency e.g. intermediate care.

The strategy has a number of recommendations for how the strategy might be delivered in practice – and many of these areas are still being developed. There are a number of supporting strategies (e.g. around falls prevention, self care etc) which will set out in more detail how the broad outcomes are to be achieved.

Although the consultation on the broad strategy has finished, there is still an opportunity for the VCS to influence what services are commissioned under the prevention strategy.

Your local CVS will be running voluntary sector forums in your area where health issues will be discussed. Contact your local CVS to find out when these are scheduled or to let us have your views on this or any other of the information in this section.

Have you visited our new website yet?

For up to date news on the voluntary and community sector in Torridge District visit
www.torridgecvcs.org.uk



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Call Kate Shanahan
01237 420130**

TORRIDGE RESOURCE CENTRE INCORPORATING VOLUNTARY ACTION AND VOLUNTEERING - Provides practical support, advice and information to any organisation, activity or self-help group working or wishing to work within the voluntary/community sector. Enables local people of all ages to become involved in a range of voluntary activities and links people and groups who need practical help with those volunteers able to give it. Develops the voice of the voluntary/community sector in decision-making on local and countywide issues.
Contact: JENNY FISH 01237 420131 or BARBARA GRANT 01237 420138

TAW & TORRIDGE CARING – Offers advice, information, practical and emotional support to local carers and their support groups.
Contact: SUE PIRRIE 01237 459337

CAREWISE – Supports the needs of Young Carers. Through the use of trained volunteers, a range of practical skills and emotional support is made available to any young person with a caring responsibility. It also helps to encourage Young Carers to articulate their concerns and to find appropriate ways of supporting these.
Contact: CATHY KINGHAM 01237 479380

TorrAGE - Incorporating the Neighbourhood Links Project, provides services and support for older people in Torrington. Contact ANNA MALONE Development Worker, or LINDA BEALEY Volunteer Co-ordinator on 01805 622666

TTVS is an accredited Volunteer Centre, a Member of Volunteering England, NCVO, and NAVCA and is an Approved Provider with the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation

Bideford Resource Centre, 14 Bridgeland Street, Bideford
Open Monday to Thursday 10.00am to 3.00pm.

Torrington Volunteer Centre, 22 Cornmarket Street, Torrington
Open Thursday morning 10.00am to 1.00pm

Holsworthy, find us at Holsworthy Memorial Hall every Wednesday morning.

Look out for outreach opportunities in the local area.

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Inclusion of any training event, article or information does not mean that we
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