



Welcome to July 2006 Volunteer Centre Sefton Email Update which brings you the latest news from Volunteer Centre Sefton straight to your inbox. The Update is packed with a wide range of information relevant to local voluntary and community organisations who manage and involve volunteers in their work.

Please forward this Email Update to anyone who you feel may find it of interest.

Download previous Email Updates from: <http://www.volunteeringsefton.org.uk/bestpractice.htm>.

Volunteer Co-ordinators Forum Meeting

The next Volunteer Co-ordinators Forum Meeting details are as follows:

Date/time: Wednesday, 30 August 2006, 1.00pm – 4.00pm (Lunch provided from 12.30pm).

Venue: Sefton CVS Offices, 7-11 Yellowhouse Lane, Southport.

Click to see location map: <http://www.volunteeringsefton.org.uk/images/map11.jpg>.

Details: Discussing issues relevant to volunteering in and outside Sefton, sharing ideas and information.

Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings however places are strictly limited and must be booked in advance. For further details or to book a place Email: info@volunteeringsefton.org.uk or Tel.: **0151 920 0726 (Ext. 211)**.

Launch of Investing in Volunteers for Employers

'Investing in Volunteers for Employers' has been developed to help improve the management and outcomes of employer supported volunteering programmes (ESV). The development of the new standard has been funded by CapacityBuilders as part of the ChangeUp programme delivered by the Volunteering Hub. Through the Website: <http://www.investinginvolunteers.org.uk> employers can explore the ten key areas of employer supported volunteering best practice. These can then be used to benchmark current work. Areas covered by the standard include: Recruitment; Supervision; Risk management; Recognition.

The Investing in Volunteers for Employers framework is available free of charge, with a registration fee for those wishing to gain the externally assessed, UK wide, Investing in Volunteers for Employers quality mark.

For further information contact Gina Aylward, Tel.: **020 7520 8990**, Email: iiv@volunteeringengland.org.uk.

Disability Volunteering

National disability organisations, Scope and Leonard Cheshire have produced a guide designed to help volunteer managers make their volunteering opportunities accessible to young disabled people.

Funding from the Home Office has financed the development of the guide, which has been co-produced with a group of young disabled people. It includes practical advice on involving and recruiting young disabled people as volunteers and is available free to interested organisations.

The toolkit can be downloaded from: <http://www.can-do-volunteering.org> and is available as a printed booklet, on a CD or in alternative formats free of charge from Tel.: **01908 321 049** or Email: publications@scope.org.uk.

Merseyside VCS Employment – Promotional Leaflets

A range of targeted marketing materials to promote a positive image of the Merseyside Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) as an employer have been developed thanks to Greater Merseyside ChangeUp funding. The publications specifically target and promote the role and contribution of older workers in the VCS workforce. Each of the 3 publications focuses on a different issue relevant to career opportunities in the Merseyside VCS.

Download (PDF Format): Never Say Never - A guide for older workers looking for VCS employment:

<http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/neverstaynever.pdf>

Meaning in Mind - A guide to careers with 'Meaning and Purpose':

<http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/meaninginmind.pdf>

All Change - A guide for people interested in changing careers:

<http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/allchange.pdf>

Faithful Volunteering

In a faith community nearly everyone is a volunteer: the members of the managing council, youth leaders, visitors, Boards and Committees – nowadays there are many volunteers serving as priests, pastors or congregational leaders. It becomes different if organisations involve people from other faith communities in their work. Church and Society has produced a good practice guide which focuses on using volunteers outside our particular local faith community although many of the good practice guidelines apply in all circumstances.

Copies of the 'Faithful Volunteers' Good Practice Guide (MS Word Format) can be downloaded from:
<http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/faithvolunteering.doc>.

Sefton Millennium Volunteers MVoice Magazine

Sefton Millennium Volunteers have produced the Summer 2006, Issue 9 of the 'MVoice' Magazine. The magazine aims to provide young people with information about the project and about the range of forthcoming activities, events and training opportunities which are available in Sefton. This issue also includes a specific Summer Event Calendar covering the period July - August 2006. Copies of 'MVoice' can be downloaded (PDF Format) from:
<http://www.volunteeringsefton.org.uk/pdf/mvoice9.pdf>.

For further information about Sefton Millennium Volunteers Tel.: **0151 920 7286**, Email: info@seftonmv.org.uk, Website: <http://www.seftonmv.org.uk>.

Merseyside Virtual Volunteering Hub & Protocols Development Project

Volunteer Centre Sefton is currently leading a ChangeUp funded project in partnership with Volunteer Centre Liverpool and with the support of all the Greater Merseyside Volunteer Centres. The intervention will enable the Greater Merseyside Volunteer Centres to work more closely together and will maximise and standardise the quality and range of support services which are offered to both prospective volunteers and local volunteer-involving organisations. Joint working protocols will be developed and adopted and a Merseyside Volunteering Web Portal will be launched in August 2006.

Volunteering Merseyside (VM) promotes, supports and develops Volunteering in Greater Merseyside. Volunteering Merseyside is a membership of 9 nationally branded and quality accredited Volunteer Centres (VCs). The VM members are: VC Halton; VC Knowsley; VC Liverpool; VC Sefton; VC St Helens; VC Bebington; VC Heswall; VC Hoylake; VC Wallasey; VC Wirral. For further details visit the Website:
<http://www.volunteeringmerseyside.org.uk>.

As part of the project a range of materials have also been produced to promote the Volunteering Merseyside brand and website which is being developed as part of the Intervention. A series of 4 postcards featuring Merseyside volunteers have been designed and produced and can be downloaded (PDF Format):

Volunteering Postcard 1 – Pauline: <http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/postcardpauline.pdf>

Volunteering Postcard 2 – Gemma: <http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/postcardgemma.pdf>

Volunteering Postcard 3 – Tony: <http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/postcardtony.pdf>

Volunteering Postcard 4 – Pauline: <http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/postcardreza.pdf>.

The Big Lottery BASIS Merseyside Applications

The Big Lottery BASIS programme aims to improve the infrastructure support available to all voluntary and community sector organisations in England. Infrastructure services do vital work to help voluntary and community groups achieve their aims, through services such as training, providing information, representing community groups' interests, supporting networks and sharing good practice.

BASIS aims to enable infrastructure bodies to achieve their work more effectively and to a high quality and help them to reach harder to reach groups. This will very much be building on work started under ChangeUp. For further details visit the Website: <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk>.

Greater Merseyside ChangeUp has compiled a Matrix which details all known Merseyside applications to BASIS. The Matrix can be downloaded (MS Word Format) from:
<http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/basismatrix.doc>.

Volunteering North West

Volunteering North West (VNW) has been in operation for over 20 years and has an extensive regional membership of over 30 Volunteering Infrastructure organisations. VNW aims to support the development of Volunteering in the North West and ensure that there is a modern, dynamic, strategic, co-ordinated and sustainable infrastructure for Volunteering throughout the region. VNW is dedicated to: Sharing and developing information, skills and knowledge; Promoting and developing best practice through education and training; Campaigning on appropriate and relevant issues.

To view VNW's full membership list visit: <http://www.volunteeringnorthwest.org.uk/members.html>. VNW has launched a new Website: <http://www.volunteeringnorthwest.org.uk>. VNW has also produced a promotional Flyer, copies of which are available to download (PDF Format) from: <http://www.volunteeringnorthwest.org.uk/pdf/vnwleaflet.pdf>.

New Look CVS Bulletin – June 2006 Edition

The Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (Sefton CVS) Bulletin has been given a makeover. The June 2006 edition is available to download and contains a wealth of information relevant to local VCS organisations. The latest bulletin is available (PDF Format) from: <http://www.seftoncvcs.org.uk/docs/bulletinjune2006.pdf>.

Greater Merseyside CVS Promotional Leaflet

Greater Merseyside has six borough wide Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) infrastructure organisations that have been promoting and assisting voluntary and community sector activity for many years. A promotional leaflet has been produced thanks to Greater Merseyside ChangeUp funding. Download the Greater Merseyside CVS Leaflet (PDF Format): <http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/cvsleaflet.pdf>.

CSV Make a Difference Day 2006

CSV Make a Difference Day is the UK's biggest day of hands-on volunteering and takes place on 28 October 2006. Now in its 11th year, CSV Make a Difference Day hopes to involve over 110,000 volunteers in more than 5,000 activities. Run by CSV and supported by Barclays PLC, the day gives everyone the chance to volunteer in their local community without commitment.

For further information visit: <http://www.csv.org.uk/difference> or Tel.: 0800 284 533.

'V' - 1 Million New Young Volunteers by 2010

'V' is an independent charity set up as a result of the government project, the Russell Commission which spoke to over 6000 young people and more than 700 organisations involved in volunteering. The Commission made a number of recommendations including setting up an independent charity to get more young people volunteering and inspire a new generation of young volunteers (at least 1 million more 16 – 25 year olds in volunteering by 2010). So what does that mean? It means more young people on community radio, more young people improving the environment, more young people running sports clubs, more young people taking part in international projects - basically more young people giving their time and talents to improve their communities.

For more information visit the Website: <http://www.wearev.com>.

Supporting Young Volunteers Handbook

A handbook, 'Supporting Volunteers' has been developed by the staff of the Volunteer Support Project (VSP), a Sefton CVS managed project that provides training, information and on-going support to volunteers working in the youth sector in Litherland and Netherton, as well as supporting and developing volunteer-based youth projects in the area. The handbook is a comprehensive overview of all aspects of youth and voluntary work, which begins, in Section I, with understanding the desire to volunteer, how to become 'volunteer ready' and how to retain and support volunteers. Section 2 attempts to explain the legislation and policies that apply to volunteering and youth work. Finally, Section III provides a useful toolkit of relevant forms, checklists and template letters for organisations involving volunteers.

The first 50 copies of the handbook are available free of charge to Voluntary and Community organisations. If you would like to receive a free copy of the handbook contact Dianne Harris by Tel.: 0151 920 0727 (Ext. 321) or Email: dianne@volunteeringsefton.org.uk.

Volunteers Week 2006

Volunteers' Week is a national celebration of volunteers and volunteering which takes place from 1 – 7 June of each year. The Week aims to promote innovative ways to thank, recruit and involve volunteers and raises the profile of the work of the UK's 22 million volunteers.

Volunteers' Week 2006 was a considerable success in Sefton. Volunteer Centre Sefton organised a series of promotion events during Volunteers' Week 2006 to raise the general profile of volunteering in Sefton and to recruit more volunteers. Events which took place included leaflet and drops and promotional events in the town centres of both Bootle and Southport and a 'Volunteer Celebration Event' at Bootle town hall. The 'Volunteer Celebration Event' proved very popular and certificates were presented by the Mayor of Sefton to over 53 locally active volunteers. The Southport based radio station, Dune FM also broadcast a special 'Volunteers Week' programme which included a live interview with a member of the Volunteer Centre's staff team.

During Volunteers Week 2006 over 254 Certificates were presented in Sefton to local volunteers. This equated to 145,800 volunteering hours and over £1.6 million invested back into the local community through volunteering (calculated on average hourly rate for the North West as detailed in New Earnings Survey 2003).

For further information about the Sefton Volunteer Certificate Scheme click:

<http://www.volunteeringsefton.org.uk/certificates.html> where you will be able to download Certificate Application Forms and other supporting information. Alternatively contact Denise Grant on Tel.: **0151 920 0726 (Ext. 213)** or Email: denise@volunteeringsefton.org.uk.

Sefton Mentoring - Achieving Real Targets for Young People

SMART is a mentoring project run throughout the Sefton area, listening to and supporting young people aged 16-19 and empowering them to make the right decisions in life. SMART is looking for local people of all ages to become mentors for the project. If you are friendly, approachable, a good listener, reliable and non-judgemental and would like to make use of your skills and life experiences whilst developing your interpersonal communication and mentoring skills then we would like to hear from you. This is an opportunity to make a real difference in a young person's life.

For more information contact Marie Morgan on Tel.: **0151 920 0726 (Ext. 203)** or Email:

m.morgan@merseymail.com.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Nominations are being sought for The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2007. The Award is given for outstanding achievement by groups of two or more volunteers who: regularly devote their time to helping others in the community; improve the quality of life and opportunity for others; provide an outstanding service.

Nomination forms are available to download from: <http://www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk> or by Email: queensaward@volunteeringengland.org. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 30 September 2006.

ICT Hub HelpDesk

The ICT Hub have launched their new HelpDesk. The ICT HelpDesk enables access to free information, advice and guidance on strategic ICT issues. To call the HelpDesk, use the free phone number Tel.: **0800 652 4737** or Email: helpdesk@icthub.org.uk.

CapacityBuilders

CapacityBuilders is a new agency with responsibility to initially manage the £70million ChangeUp programme for the financial years 2006/07 and 2007/08 and to secure sustained funding until 2014. CapacityBuilders will work with Voluntary and Community organisations in every region to help them become even more effective and efficient. For further details visit the website: <http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk>.

You can also download the:

CapacityBuilders strategy and programme of action 'Fit for Growth' (PDF Format) from:

<http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/fitforgrowth.pdf>.

CapacityBuilders Funding Programmes Guide (PDF Format) from:

<http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/capacitybuildersfunding.pdf>.

Charity Fair 2006 - Volunteering

Charity Fair 2006 will take place in Manchester, 13-14 September 2006. Charity Fair is organised by the Directory for Social Change and is a large event for voluntary and community organisations. Volunteering England will run two seminars as part of their core training sessions covering topics in three key 'streams': Fundraising; Management; Skills Development. The two sessions run by Volunteering England will be:

Bad Practice Guide: How to lose a Volunteer in 10 Days (13 September 2006)

A step-by-step guide on how to recruit, retain and develop your volunteers so badly, you'd have to pay them to come back! A fun session that turns the usual approach to volunteer management training on its head.

The Expert's Panel Debate: Can volunteers do everything? Should they? (13 September 2006)

Some people argue that there should be no limits on volunteer involvement, no roles that they cannot take on. However what about job substitution, consistency and diversity? Guest speakers aim to spark off a lively debate with the audience invited to submit questions and comments both in advance and from the floor.

For further details about VE's seminars contact Nikki Shuttleworth on Tel.: **0207 520 8928** or Email: nikki.shuttleworth@volunteeringengland.org.

For further information about Charity Fair 2006 check the website: <http://www.charityfair.org.uk> or contact Beth Murphy by Email: bmurphy@dsc.org.uk.

Jus' Do it

Jus' Do it is a V youth-led peer research project which recently asked young people from BME and faith groups about their experiences of volunteering and has provided some best practice recommendations for organisations wanting to attract more volunteers from those groups. Changemakers has published a brochure of case studies and a short film which are both available from the Website: <http://www.changemakers.org.uk>.

Learning Loops for Volunteer Managers

The new 'learning with others' programme is being funded by the Home Office and CapacityBuilders as part of the ChangeUp programme delivered by the Volunteering Hub.

The Volunteering Hub is looking recruiting volunteer learning advisors whose role will be to facilitate local 'learning loops' of volunteer managers who will meet to build their capacity to learn, making them more effective in their work. They are also recruiting learning loop participants, volunteer managers who are passionate about learning and keen to get support from other volunteer managers.

For information about the opportunities this programme is offering and to apply to become a volunteer learning advisor visit: <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/aboutus/volunteeringhub>.

Merseyside Funding Information Portal Now Online

The Merseyside Funding Information Portal is a brand new online resource that will help you to find out all you need to know about funding your charitable or community work, whether you are an individual, community group, voluntary organisation, registered charity or social enterprise.

For further information visit the Website: <http://www.mfip.org.uk> or contact Philip Hurst by Email: philip.hurst@seftoncvcs.org.uk.

The Impact of Investing in Volunteers

The Centre for Voluntary Action Research at Aston Business School has recently published an evaluation of the impact of Investing in Volunteers. Investing in Volunteers is the UK quality standard for organisations who involve volunteers in their work.

'The Impact of Investing in Volunteers' report can be downloaded (PDF Format) from:

http://www.iiv.org.uk/Impact_Benefits_report_2006.pdf.

To find out more about Investing in Volunteers visit: <http://www.investinginvolunteers.org.uk>.

Ideas into Action – Young People and Volunteering

From national campaigns, to local projects volunteering can offer young people opportunities to learn new skills, make a contribution to their community and make their voices heard about the issues they care about. The National Youth Agency is running a training event in Liverpool on 4 September 2006.

This training is aimed at workers in both the voluntary and statutory sectors who want to encourage and support young people in taking up volunteering opportunities. The training will: Consider volunteering opportunities for young people; Discuss the barriers to young people volunteering; Look at ways to promote voluntary participation; Share good practice etc.

For a booking form and further information call the Events Team on Tel.: **0116 242 7501** or Email: events@nya.org.uk. Alternatively visit the Website: <http://www.nya.org.uk>.

Working Together - Comprehensive Spending Review

As part of the government's Comprehensive Spending Review the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury are inviting VCS organisations to contribute to the 'Review of the Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration'. For further details download the 'Working Together Flyer' (PDF Format) from: <http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/workingtogetherflyer.pdf>.

As part of the consultation process a series of events have been organised across the country. The North West event will take place on 26 July 2006 in Manchester (11.00am – 4.00pm). If you are interested in attending the event Email: vcs.rsvp@hmm-treasury.ggsi.gov.uk.

Consultation Event for Sefton Youth Engagement and Support Strategy

This event will look at the Sefton's draft Youth Engagement and Support Strategy (YESS), which forms part of the Young People's Strategy for Sefton. The YESS was commissioned by Sefton MBC, as a response to the need to reform targeted youth support as laid out in the government Green Paper 'Youth Matters' (July 2005) and in 'Youth Matters Next Steps' (March 2006). As the Voluntary and Community Sector currently provide a wide range of diversionary activities and support services for young people, it is important to develop a VCS response to the YESS and the recommendations in it.

Two separate events have been organised to ensure as many people as possible have a chance to attend. The details are as follows:

Event 1: Wednesday, 19 July 2006 (1.00pm – 3.30pm). Venue: Alchemy, Southport.

Event 2: Monday, 24 July 2006 (9.30am – 12.00noon). Venue: SING Plus, Cambridge Road, Seaforth.

For further details and bookings contact Jo Crewe on Tel.: **0151 928 2233 (Ext. 105)** or Email: jo.crewe@seftoncvcs.org.uk.

Greater Merseyside ChangeUp Showcase Event Success

Nearly 200 people gathered to hear how £1.2 million has been spent on helping voluntary and community organisations in Greater Merseyside realise their full potential. The 'ChangeUp: The Story So Far' conference was held at Aintree Racecourse on Wednesday, 24 May 2006 with the aim of showcasing how the money has been invested for the long-term benefit of more than 5,000 frontline community and voluntary organisations. The day-long conference included a series of presentations on various elements of the ChangeUp programme, where money has been invested so far and the opportunity to learn more about specific projects through workshops and exhibitions as well as plans for the future. For further details about Greater Merseyside ChangeUp visit the Website: <http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk>.

Greater Merseyside ChangeUp has also produced an updated Investment Plan which highlights what has been achieved since the launch of the initial Infrastructure Investment Plan in April 2006. The updated plan also references the future priorities for Greater Merseyside ChangeUp. The Infrastructure Investment Plan Update can be downloaded (PDF Format) from: <http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/iipupdatejune06.pdf>.

Criminal Records Bureau Business Plan

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has published its five-year strategy for service delivery. To access the strategy visit: <http://www.crb.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=4142>.

Charity Mission and Visions

'Mission Impossible' is a new report from nfpSynergy which brings together over 80 vision statements from a range of non-profit organisations. The report takes away all the hard work of trawling through other organisations' websites. To download a free copy visit: <http://www.nfpsynergy.net/freereports>

Volunteering England Information Line

The Volunteering England information line is doubling its opening hours. It is now open from 9.30am - 5.30pm, Monday to Friday. The free phone number is Tel.: **0800 028 3304**. The information service can answer questions on all aspects of volunteer management, such as CRB checks, benefits rules, health and safety, and dealing with difficult situations. The service is also available via Email: information@volunteeringengland.org.

SKiLD Learning Programme

SKiLD's Learning Programme is designed for development workers and people who give hands-on support to voluntary and community groups. Details of the programme can be downloaded from the Website: <http://www.skild.org.uk>.

Diploma in Community and Youth Work Studies

This is a part-time route to JNC professional qualification for on-going practitioners in community work and/or youth work at the University of Manchester. For further details contact Penny Silcock on Tel.: 0161 275 3557 or Email: cwkenquiries@manchester.ac.uk.

IT Infrastructure Report

A new report on IT infrastructure in the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) has been published. The authors believe IT infrastructure to be one of the most important issues facing the sector and they hope that the report will contribute to a better understanding of where organisations currently stand, and where they are going in the next few years. Download the IT Infrastructure Report (PDF Format) from: http://www.do-it.org.uk/files/VCS_IT_Infrastructure.pdf.

Third Sector Network

NCVO has launched a network to unite Voluntary and Community organisations, trade unions, housing associations, social enterprises, co-operatives and mutuals, to share ideas and experience and work together on issues of common concern. For further details Email: belinda.pratten@ncvo-vol.org.uk.

UK Workforce Hub helpdesk

The UK Workforce Hub's free helpdesk can answer workforce development questions. Their team of advisers aim to signpost organisations to sources of help on good employment practice, learning and development, leadership and management, National Occupational Standards, publications, careers in the voluntary sector, volunteering and research. To access the helpdesk Tel.: **0800 652 5737** or Email: help@ukworkforcehub.org.uk.

Code of Practice for Volunteer Fundraisers

The Institute of Fundraising have developed a code of practice for volunteer fundraisers. The document can be obtained for free from the Institute of Fundraising's Website: <http://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk>.

Fire Safety Risk Assessments

Voluntary and Community organisations will soon be required to appoint a 'responsible person' and undertake a detailed fire safety risk assessment. The ODPM have published a range of free guidance on what preparation steps organisations should take. For details visit: <http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162101>.

Performance Hub Developments

The Performance Hub is launching a range of services for infrastructure organisations who provide support to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations with improving their performance. Services offered by the hub include: Supporting Performance e-community, Regional Supporting Performance Action Learning Sets and Visit programme. For details visit: <http://www.performancehub.org.uk/givingsupport> or contact Fiona Martin, Tel.: **0114 278 6636 (Ext. 125)**, Email: fiona.martin@navca.org.uk.

Good Employment Factsheets

The UK Workforce Hub has produced a range of free factsheets on good employment practice. They are particularly useful for voluntary organisations without dedicated Human Resources (HR) expertise and trustees taking on responsibilities for employment for the first time. The factsheets are available from the Website: <http://www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk>.

Information Available to Download from the ChangeUp Website

The following reports and guides have been produced as a result of funding from Greater Merseyside ChangeUp.

1) Community Transport

In autumn 2005, Greater Merseyside ChangeUp commissioned the Community Transport Association UK (CTA), to research the transport needs of Voluntary and Community sector (VCS) organisations in the five districts of Merseyside. Download the 'Need for and knowledge of Community Transport' Report (MS Word Format) from: <http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/ctamerseysidereport.doc>.

In addition, CTA have produced an informative guide which has been designed to provide clear information to VCS groups about the Community Transport services available on Merseyside. Download the 'Guide to Choosing and Using Community Transport on Merseyside' (PDF Format) from: <http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/ctamerseysideguide.pdf>.

2) Leadership Development

On Greater Merseyside in 2005/06 the ChangeUp Consortium wanted to invest some of its resources in leadership development. Simply to engage in activity without planning to learn from the experience would have been an opportunity wasted in the view of the Consortium. So an exploration of contemporary views of leadership in the voluntary and community sector was also commissioned and has now been completed. Download the 'Heartfelt - Aspects of Leadership' Report (PDF Format) from:

<http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/leadershipreport.pdf>.

3) Rural Greater Merseyside

The rural areas of Merseyside have often been overlooked by Government departments, local authorities and in some cases, those who live in them. However, the revised Rural Definitions adopted by DEFRA and other Government departments have provided new categories of 'sparse' and 'less sparse' areas, providing a more realistic view of the patterns of settlement and land use. This added granularity has enabled the identification of more rural areas than was possible previously. Greater Merseyside ChangeUp commissioned Church and Society to undertake extensive research into the situation. Download the 'VCS & Faith organisations within Rural Greater Merseyside' Report (PDF Format): <http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/ruralreport.pdf>.

4) ICT Strategic Development Advisors Project

3tc have been leading a specific ChangeUp project which has provided 30 Greater Merseyside based beneficiary organisations with tailored advice on integrating their ICT strategy and planning activities and with recommendations to encourage long-term strategic ICT development. The project's exemplar report has now been published. Download the 'ICT Strategic Advisors Project' Report (MS Word Format) from:

<http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/ictstrategicreport.doc>.

For further details about Greater Merseyside ChangeUp visit the Website:

<http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk> or Email: info@changeupmerseyside.org.uk.

Download the ChangeUp Interventions list: <http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk/docs/interventions.pdf>.

NCVO HelpDesk

A free telephone, email or textphone service is available for Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) volunteers, paid workers and trustees. Offering advice, support, signposting and information the HelpDesk is open Monday to Friday (9.00am - 6.00pm). Tel.: **0800 279 8798**, Email: helpdesk@askncvo.org.uk.

Voluntary Arts Network Briefing Papers

The Voluntary Arts Network aims to promote participation in the arts and crafts across the UK and ROI, and increasingly in Europe. For further details visit the Website: <http://www.voluntaryarts.org>. The Website boasts a range of useful Briefing Papers which can be downloaded including: 'Consultation – making it work for you'; 'What do I need to know about Copyright?'; 'Networking; not just nattering' etc.

Research on HR Volunteering Expertise

Have you volunteered your HR expertise within a voluntary organisation? Or you have volunteers who support you in your HR/personnel issues? If so the Employment Practice Team at the UK Workforce Hub would like to hear about your experience. The aim of this research is to promote the importance of good people management and HR throughout the sector and to help identify the feasibility of some kind of HR support via volunteers. For more information contact Lai-Har Cheung by Email: Lai-Har.Cheung@ukworkforcehub.org.uk.

Registering as a Charity: Evidence of CRB Disclosures

The Charity Commission has published specific guidance for Voluntary and Community organisations seeking to register with the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) as a charity working with children or provide care services to vulnerable adults. For further details visit: <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registration/crb.asp>.

Campaign Against Age Discrimination in Volunteering

Volunteering England (VE) and Volunteering in the Third Age (VITA) are calling for support for their campaign against old age discrimination in volunteering. They want to ensure that anyone who wants to can volunteer, regardless of their age. VE and VITA are asking volunteer-involving organisations to sign up to some or all of three commitments. For further details visit:

<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/campaignsandpolicies/agediscrimination>.

Review of the Year of the Volunteer 2005

The Home Office commissioned a review of the Year of the Volunteer to assess the extent to which its objectives were met during 2005. The review consists of two linked elements, an assessment of the delivery of the Year and an audit of the supporting communication. The full report and an executive summary of the report are available from: <http://www.communities.homeoffice.gov.uk/activecomms/encourag-vol-and-charit-giv/year-of-the-vol-2005-legacy/>.

The GoldStar Initiative

The GoldStar initiative aims to help voluntary organisations across the country to share good practice in recruiting and retaining volunteers from socially excluded groups and to learn from the experiences of others. It commenced with a series of 9 regional events to be held across England in June 2006. For further information visit:

<http://www.keystone-group.co.uk/goldstar>.

National Training Strategy for Volunteer Managers

The Volunteering Hub's draft National Training Strategy for Volunteer Managers is now ready for consultation. Over 140 volunteer managers from infrastructure organisations, large national charities and small grass roots volunteer-involving organisations have generously given their time to share their experience of training to date and what they want for the future. The Hub now need organisation's views on the draft strategy. For details contact Emily Lomax on Tel.: **0207 520 8958** or Email: emily.lomax@volunteeringengland.org.

Making the Stress Management Standards Work

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published a guide for organisations titled 'Making the Stress Management Standards work: How to apply the Standards in your workplace'. The guide can be downloaded (PDF Format) from: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/misc714.pdf>.

Governance Hub Toolkits

Three new toolkits have been produced and are available to download for free from the Governance Hub website. The toolkits are designed to help organisations to:

1. Use 'Good Governance; the Code for the Voluntary and Community Sector' either to assess their governance performance or to learn more about governance (or both).
2. Use the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Trustees and Management Committee Members (Trustee Standards). The toolkit provides trustees and others with the practical tools and signposting needed to use the Standards to improve performance.
3. Improve the ways in which they recruit trustees. The toolkit presents a 10-step process to trustee recruitment, starting with the initial stages of planning and concludes with the final evaluation of the process.

The toolkits, including the various exercises, handouts and model documents can be downloaded from the Governance Hub website or are available on a CD Rom. Printed copies can be purchased for £15.00 plus P&P. For more information visit the Website: <http://www.governancehub.org.uk>.

Getting Trustee Recruitment Right

How do you go about finding new trustees and what skills should you look for? And, importantly, how do you know what checks to make – especially if your charity works with vulnerable beneficiaries?

The Charity Commission are shortly planning to publish a new guide, 'Finding new trustees: what charities need to know', which will go through the processes involved, from undertaking a skills audit, to advertising vacancies, to being clear about when Criminal Records Bureau checks really needed.

Finding new trustees: what charities need to know (order code CC30) will give practical guidance for each step of the process and should help boards get it right first time when recruiting new trustees. The guide will shortly be available from the website: <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk> or by calling The Charity Commission direct on Tel.: **0845 000 218**.

New Voluntary Sector Management Qualification

Charitytraining.com is offering a BTEC Professional Certificate in Voluntary Sector Management, supported by the awarding body EDEXCEL. The qualification has been specifically designed to meet the development needs of charity professionals and is the first of its kind within the UK. For more information visit the Website:

<http://www.charitytraining.com>, Email: enquiry@charitytraining.com or Tel.: **01778 344 113**.

Stronger Communities Equals Safer Communities

The Home Office has published evidence that local strategies targeted at increasing a sense of community could also reduce levels of neighbourhood crime. The research shows that local areas that have a higher sense of community have lower levels of 'all reported crime'. The report can be downloaded (PDF Format) from:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/rdsolr1906.pdf>.

Volunteering Hub Good Practice Bank

The Good Practice Bank brings together articles, information sheets, case studies, links and other helpful guidance on a range of volunteering issues. The Bank aims to grow and evolve as more information is added to it. It also aims to allow users to share their documents with other volunteering organisations.

Visit the Bank at: <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/managingvolunteers/goodpracticebank>.

Joined-up Training for Volunteer Managers – 2006 Programme

Volunteering England and AM Training work in partnership to offer professional level training for people who manage volunteers. The new 2006 Training Programme is now available. It is designed with the new UK Workforce Hub Management Standards in mind and represents a comprehensive training in all aspects of volunteer management.

The new 2006 programme can be viewed by visiting: <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/missions.php?id=468>. Alternatively contact Adam May by Email: vm@amtraining.co.uk.

Volunteering Information Sheets

Volunteering England offers a series of printable Information Sheets via their website. The sheets cover topics from expenses and health and safety to insurance and accreditation. Some of the sheets are aimed at potential volunteers, while others have been written as guides for volunteer managers. The latest Information Sheets include: Definitions of volunteering; Making a decision on involving ex-offenders; How to say 'thank you' to your volunteers; Monitoring & evaluating a volunteer programme; National Statistics on volunteering; Problem Solving Procedures. To access the full list of Sheets visit: <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/information>.

NACVS Name Change

NACVS has changed its name to NAVCA, the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action. NAVCA is the national voice of local voluntary and community sector infrastructure in England. 360 NACVA members work with over 140,000 local community groups and voluntary organisations, helping them to provide services, regenerate neighbourhoods, increase volunteering and tackle discrimination in partnership with local public bodies. For further details visit the Website: <http://www.navca.org.uk> or Email: navca@navca.org.uk.

International Volunteer Manager Appreciation Day

1 November 2006 is the 7th annual observation of International Volunteer Manager Appreciation Day. The organising committee would like to hear from organisations about how they would like to observe the occasion and others concerned with the effective utilisation of community involvement by volunteers. The committee has set up a short online survey to hear people's ideas and opinions about what they would like to see on a Website dedicated to the day. To participate in the survey visit the Website: <http://ivmaday.org>.

Volunteers - The Heart and Soul of the Sector?

Do you recognise the following: 'Volunteers goodwill is as valuable an asset and as formidable a force as funds raised from supporters' but 'the rise of professional fundraising and the professionalisation of the sector over the past few decades have resulted in the role of volunteers often being downplayed. A report has been published which highlights these and other concerns which can be downloaded from: <http://www.nfpsynergy.net>.

Commission on the Future of Volunteering

The England Volunteering Development Council (EVDC) has established the 'Commission on the Future of Volunteering' which will report in June 2007. The Commission on the Future of Volunteering will help to steer the development of a long-term vision for volunteering in England. The Commission is a legacy of the Year of the Volunteer 2005 and is a component of the work of the Volunteering Hub. Download (PDF Format):

EVDC's submission to the Commission: <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/AF5DF2D7-FB9E-4A08-978C-3118994D1445/0/EVDCSubmissiontotheCommissionontheFutureofVolunteering.pdf>.

Volunteering England's submission to the Commission:

http://www.volunteering.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/3ECCF231-DFA7-4FF1-AE74-EBC7EE64DDFE/0/Volunteering_England_submission_to_the_Commission_on_on_the_Future_of_Volunteering_June_2006.pdf.

Age Discrimination Factsheets

The DTI has published eight factsheets on the age discrimination regulations which will be introduced in October 2006. For further information visit: <http://www.dti.gov.uk/employment/discrimination/age-discrimination/age-legislation/page29258.html>.

New Volunteering and Benefits Guidance

The Department of Work and Pensions has published new guidance on volunteering and benefits. 'A Guide to Volunteering While on Benefits' can be downloaded: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/volunteering>. Concerns have been raised nationally about the guidance and in particular the sections which cover the payment of volunteer expenses. To view the Volunteering England Information Sheet produced in response to this: www.volunteering.org.uk/managingvolunteers/goodpracticebank/Information/DWP+meal+expenses.htm.

Downloading PDF Format Files and Documents

Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files can be viewed on most major operating systems. Adobe Reader 6.0 is the newest version of the familiar Adobe Acrobat Reader software. The FREE Adobe Acrobat Reader software can be downloaded from: <http://www.adobe.co.uk/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

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Further Information

For more information about the work and services of Volunteer Centre Sefton visit our Website:

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

For general enquiries contact:

Volunteer Centre Sefton

3rd Floor, Merseyside 3TC

16 Crosby Road North

Waterloo L22 0NY

Website: <http://www.volunteeringsefton.org.uk>

Email: info@volunteeringsefton.org.uk Tel.: 0151 920 0726 (Ext. 211)

Click to see location map: <http://www.volunteeringsefton.org.uk/images/map12.jpg>

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