



Welcome to September 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>.

Youth Volunteering in Greater Merseyside

Volunteer Centre Sefton has secured funding from new charity 'V' to develop volunteering opportunities for young people throughout Merseyside. The bid was submitted on behalf of all CVS' in Merseyside, Volunteer Centres and other partner organisations including Connexions, The Culture Company and British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

The £33,614 grant will be used to set up short-term, taster volunteering sessions for young people aged from 16 to 25 as part of the government's commitment to increase youth volunteering and civic service. A small team of part-time workers will be responsible for the successful design, development and delivery of the project across the sub-region. They will liaise both with organisations to develop these opportunities and young people to engage them in these activities.

Organisations wishing to develop or advertise an opportunity or any young person looking to get involved can contact Dianne Harris on Tel.: **0151 920 0726 (Ext. 321)** or Email: dianne@volunteeringsefton.org.uk.

Ambassador Volunteer Centre for Mentoring and Befriending

Volunteer Centre Sefton has been selected as the North West Region's Ambassador Volunteer Centre for Mentoring and Befriending. VC Sefton will be responsible for promoting Mentoring and Befriending and acting as an advice point to other Volunteer Centres across the region for the duration of the pilot project. VC Sefton will be working in partnership with the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation (MBF), the national infrastructure body for mentoring and befriending in England

For further information contact Dianne Harris on Tel.: **0151 920 0726 (Ext. 321)** or Email: dianne@volunteeringsefton.org.uk

Sefton's Local Area Agreement

Sefton CVS has been working with Community Empowerment Network representatives in developing the Statement of Community Involvement for Sefton's Local area agreement. The Local Area Agreement is a three-year agreement between Government, Local Authorities and their partners within the Local Strategic Partnership, about identifying the key priorities for the local area and working together to address them. Each Local Area Agreement must have a statement of community involvement which underpins how the LAA will operate in engaging with its voluntary and community sector partners. Sefton's LAA will commence from 1 April 2007.

The draft statement of community involvement for Sefton is available as a downloadable document (PDF Format) from: <http://www.seftoncvcs.org.uk/docs/comminvstatement.pdf>. For information contact Neil Frackleton on Tel.: **0151 928 2233 (Ext. 111)** or Email: neil.frackleton@seftoncvcs.org.uk.

Joint Cabinet Office and HM Treasury Comprehensive Spending Review

As part of the 2006 Budget, the Chancellor announced that HM Treasury would undertake a review into the future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration in England. This is the largest ever consultation with the voluntary, community and faith sector in the UK. In order to contribute to the review, Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services (LCVS) and Merseyside Network for Europe are holding a consultation conference for Merseyside's voluntary, community and faith sector organisations. The event will take place on Monday, 11 September 2006 (9.00am-2.00pm) at the Aintree Racecourse Conference Centre.

For further details and to book places contact Amanda Bilal Jones on Tel.: **0151 258 1454**.

Ex-Offenders and Volunteering

Charities and communities are apparently denying those with a criminal record the opportunity to turn their life around through volunteering because of poor disclosure practice according to a new guide by Volunteering England and Nacro. The guide, 'Involving Ex-offenders in Volunteering', reveals that although a quarter of the whole UK population of working age has been convicted of a criminal offence just 7.5% of disclosures indicate the applicant possesses a criminal record. This implies that approximately two thirds of potential recruits are avoiding applying for roles where disclosures are involved – even though they may not be relevant to the post in question. To receive a copy of the publication contact Nacro's media office on Tel.: **020 7840 6497**.

Quick Guide to Annual Accounts

The 'The Quick Guide to Annual Accounts' is a free document, which gives easy to follow advice on issues such as correct preparation, formatting and scrutiny of accounts, is aimed at management committee members of charitable organisations and provides a brief description of their responsibilities for annual accounts.

The guide can be downloaded (PDF Format) from: <http://www.seftoncvcs.org.uk/docs/quickguide.pdf>.

For more advice and support regarding community accounting in Sefton, contact Ian Leadbetter, Sefton CVS Community Accountant, on Tel.: **0151 920 0726 (Ext. 204)** or Email: ian.leadbetter@seftoncvcs.org.uk.

NHS Trusts to prove Volunteer Value

NHS trusts will be able to measure the true value of their volunteers for the first time in a study commissioned by Volunteering England, the national development agency for volunteers, and funded by the Department of Health. Link: <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/newsandevents/mediacentre/Volunteering+Impact+Toolkit.htm>.

VCS Learning Consortium Event

In partnership with Greater Merseyside Learning and Skills Council (LSC), Merseyside's voluntary and community sector is looking to research and develop a consortium approach to for local voluntary and community sector learning and training providers across the sub-region, which covers Liverpool, Knowsley, Wirral, St. Helens, Halton and Sefton. A half-day event to raise awareness of VCS Learning Consortia and engage with the wider sector across Greater Merseyside will be held on Thursday, 21 September 2006 at the LACE Centre, Liverpool and will run from (9.30am – 1.00pm).

For information contact Stuart McGrory on Tel.: **0151 285 4064** or Email: stuart.mcgrory@seftoncvcs.org.uk

The following documents can also be downloaded:

Event Flyer (PDF Format): <http://www.seftoncvcs.org.uk/docs/consortiumeventflyer.pdf>.

Event Booking Form (MS Word Format):

<http://www.seftoncvcs.org.uk/docs/bookingformconsortiumevent.doc>.

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.

Australian Plan to Pay Volunteers

Australian Prime Minister John Howard is considering a plan to pay retired volunteers for their efforts and to give tax breaks to volunteers still in the workforce. For further information: <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/news-views/news/doc/australia-considering-plan-to.html>.

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/neversaynever.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>.

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>.

Homelessness and Volunteering

In late November 2006 the BBC is planning a series of programmes exploring homelessness and social inequality in 21st Century Britain. The series will encourage the public to take action by volunteering to help organisations that work with homeless people. The BBC is working in collaboration with: <http://www.do-it.org.uk> to offer these volunteering opportunities via the BBC website and to ensure sufficient volunteering opportunities are in place. Organisations who work in the area of homelessness are invited to upload their volunteering opportunities onto the: <http://www.do-it.org.uk> database through their local Volunteer Centre.

'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>.

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**.

Sports Volunteering North West

Sports Volunteering North West is an independent regional body which represents volunteers and the voluntary sector in sport and physical activity. Website: www.sportsvolunteeringnw.org. Download the latest Sports Volunteering North West Newsletter (PDF Format):

<http://www.volunteeringnorthwest.org.uk/pdf/svnwnews.pdf>.

Resources for Board Members and Trustees

The Governance Hub is a source of support to boards and trustees, including an online knowledge bank: <http://www.governancehub.org.uk> helping people to pursue their learning at their own pace and according to their personal needs. Support and advice is also available from the helpdesk on Tel.: **0800 652 4886**.

Governance Health Check

The Governance Hub challenges you to take part in a quick 'health check', developed by TimeBank, to help you determine whether your board's at the top of its game or whether there's room for improvement. Take just 5 minutes out of your day to answer 7 multiple-choice questions. The results of the survey will identify if there are areas where you could do with a little support, and point you in the direction of practical information and advice that'll set you on course to win. Take part now at: <http://www.govhc.org.uk>.

How to find a trustee?

Follow a systematic 10-step process from the trustee recruitment toolkit, a practical guide published by the Governance Hub. It can be freely downloaded from the Governance Hub website or purchased as a printed copy with CD Rom for £15.00. A companion publication pocket guide is also available, structured around a few essential questions your organisation needs to ask itself when recruiting a trustee.

For further information visit the website: <http://www.governancehub.org.uk>.

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>.

Network South - Networking Know-How Event

Network South is part of the Sefton Community Empowerment Network, and exists to ensure that voluntary and community groups based in or who work in South Sefton, including tenants and residents groups, have a voice in decision-making. Network South are hosting a 'Networking Know-How Event' at Aintree Racecourse on 19 September 2006. The event will enable organisations to find out about Network South and how it can help you to influence decision-making in your own neighbourhood and the wider South Sefton area.

For more information contact Amanda O'Brien on Tel.: **0151 928 2233 (Ext. 312)** or Email: amanda.obrien@seftoncvcs.org.uk.

IAVM 2006

If you are committed to volunteering and to maximising the contribution that your volunteers can make, don't miss the opportunity to participate in CSV's Institute for Advanced Volunteer Management 2006 from 15 - 17 November 2006 in Nottingham. IAVM 2006 presents the unique opportunity to attend a three-day training event offering 33 advanced-level workshops on all aspects of volunteer management and leadership.

For further information visit: <http://www.csv.org.uk/Get+Trained/IAVM>.

Sefton CVS Bulletin – August 2006 Edition

The Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (Sefton CVS) Bulletin has been given a makeover. The August 2006 edition is now 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/bulletinaugust2006.pdf>.

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 provided 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.

To receive a copy contact Dianne Harris on Tel.: **0151 920 0726 (Ext. 321)** or Email: dianne@volunteeringsefton.org.uk.

Charity Technology Exchange

The CTX Programme was developed by Charity Technology Trust in partnership with the not-for-profit technology capacity building organisation TechSoup and was launched in July 2006. The programme currently distributes Microsoft and Cisco product donations to the UK charity sector via the on-line CTX Shop. The products include operating system software, productivity software such as Microsoft Office, publishing software, server software and hardware products. For more information visit: <http://www.ctxchange.org/ctx>.

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.

Volunteering and the Media

New research reporting on the findings from a survey of Volunteer Development Agencies and volunteer-involving organisations about their liaison with the media on volunteering issues has been published. The research, commissioned by the Voluntary Action Media Unit (VAMU), looks at the ways organisations engage with the media, the barriers they experience and the help they need in their media activities.

The report can be downloaded (MS Word Format) from: http://www.ivr.org.uk/Promoting_Volunteering_in_the_Media_Report_June_06.doc.

IT Professional Volunteer Awards

iT4Communities has launched its IT Professional Volunteer Awards. iT4C is now welcoming nominations for the Awards which will be held on the 14 November 2006 in London. The awards aim to recognise the valued role that volunteer IT professionals play in supporting charities and voluntary sector groups. Individuals, charities or community organisations can nominate themselves or their IT volunteer by submitting their application by 11 October 2006. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.it4communities.org.uk/it4c/AwardNomination06.jsp>.

iT4Communities is a member of the ICT Hub, a consortium of voluntary sector organisations who have come together to plan and deliver a co-ordinated framework of ICT guidance, good practice, advice and support for voluntary and community organisations, accessible at a local level.

For information about the ICT Hub: <http://www.ictHub.org.uk> or ring the HelpDesk on Tel.: **0800 652 4737**.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2007

To celebrate her Golden Jubilee in 2002, the Queen announced a new annual UK National Honour to recognise outstanding voluntary activities by groups in the community. If you know a group of volunteers who make a difference in your community, who devote their time to helping others, why not nominate them for an Award.

Visit: <http://www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk> or Email: queensaward@volunteeringengland.org.uk or Tel.: **0845 000 2002**.

Lunch Expenses U-turn

The Department of Work and Pensions has made an unexpected u-turn with its announcement that volunteers on benefits will no longer have to bear the cost of their lunchtime meal.

Volunteering England press release:

<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/newsandevents/mediacentre/lunch+expenses+uturn.htm>.

Department of Work and Pensions press release:

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=219557&NewsAreaID=2>.

Meeting New Standards

A new set of occupational standards is helping trustees and management committee members of voluntary and community organisations to understand the good practice and legal obligations associated with their roles. A consultation with over 200 representatives from the UK voluntary and community sector (VCS) – representing more than 1,700 trustees – revealed that a significant number of trustees plan to use the standards for induction and training.

The standards have been developed by the UK Workforce Hub, with input from the Governance Hub, and steering and working groups made up from a wide variety of representatives from within the sector, outline the levels of know-how and skill that need to be reached in order to be an effective voluntary sector trustee.

The National Occupational Standards for Trustees and Committee Members are available as a printed document with a binder from Central Books. For more information Email: publications@ncvo-voluntary.org.uk or Tel.: **0845 458 9911**. The standards are also available to download free of charge from:

<http://www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk> and a free pocket-sized edition to complement the full standards document are available free of charge from Email: workforcehub@ukworkforcehub.org.uk.

Sefton Community Venues

Sefton CVS is currently compiling a list of community based venues which can be used for meetings and other activities by voluntary and community sector groups. If you have a venue you would like to publicise contact Adam Woodcock, Community Environmental Transformation Officer on Tel.: **0151 928 2233 (Ext. 102)** or Email: adam.woodcock@seftoncv.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>.

SKILD's Learning Programme

SKILD's autumn (September - November 2006) learning programme is out. SKILD's own courses have also been subsidised. They are only £35 for voluntary and community sector organisations. The programme lists over 50 training courses and other opportunities for development workers who support local voluntary and community groups. Find out more at: <http://www.skild.org.uk> or Tel.: **0114 278 6636 (Ext. 101)**.

Sport Volunteering and Top Jobs in Sport

A 'Careers Map' has been produced by SkillsActive, the sector skills council for the sport and active leisure industries. The careers map offers a visual solution to the often confusing web of career options within the sport and recreational sector. The map shows both paid and volunteer (unpaid) roles in the sector. It is aimed at anybody wishing to find out more about volunteering and working in sport and recreation.

The careers map can be found at: <http://www.skillsactive.com/careers>.

Capacitybuilders Funding Programme

Capacitybuilders has announced details of a new funding programme which aims to improve the reach of infrastructure for a range of marginalised groups. Improving Reach is a pilot programme which will run until March 2008. The aim of the programme is to improve access to capacity building and support for a range of frontline groups and organisations.

For further information visit: <http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/fund>.

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.

Microsoft Community Learning Awards

Citizens Online and Microsoft are joining forces for a fourth year to deliver The Microsoft Community Learning Awards (MCLA) which recognises communities and charities that promote IT skills and access to those that might not have the same chances as others. This year they are making grants of £2,500 plus essential IT software to the 30 winning entrants. For further details visit: <http://www.ukcommunityawards.com>.

Branch Networks in the 21st Century

A branch network can bring a volunteer-involving organisation huge benefits, but it can also present real management challenges. Very little has been written about how branch networks operate, even though such networks are widespread in the sector. 'Branch networks in the 21st century: a handbook' by Volunteering England, fills this gap. This handbook is being launched on Monday 25th September in London, with a full day programme of discussion.

Registration fee: £75 for Volunteering England members and £110 for non-members. This fee includes a copy of the handbook (usual price £15.00). For information Email: Jocelyne.boorman@volunteeringengland.org.

Involving Volunteers in the Homelessness Sector

National homelessness body, Homeless Link, will be hosting a series of seminars across the country called 'Hidden potential: adding value through volunteers'. The ten events lead up to the 40th anniversary of 'Cathy Come Home' and the BBC's forthcoming 'No Home' season which explores homelessness and social inequality in 21st century Britain. Homeless Link encourages all organisations working across homelessness and housing to mark the local date in their diaries to find out how volunteer contributions can make a difference. Dates and towns are listed on: <http://www.homelesslink.org.uk/events> and a program will follow shortly.

Need Help to Complete Funding Applications?

Sefton CVS has Community Development teams in both the North and South of the borough, who help empower groups to meet their maximum potential to improve the quality of life within Sefton communities by providing training, advice, support and guidance.

For assistance in completing your funding application or for advice in any other area, please use the contact details below.

North Sefton: Elizabeth McInnes - North Sefton Community Development Manager

Tel.: **01704 501 024 (Ext. 204)**, Email: elizabeth.mcinnnes@seftoncvcs.org.uk

South Sefton: Samantha Smith - South Sefton Community Development Manager

Tel.: **0151 928 233 (Ext. 118)**, Email: samantha.smith@seftoncvcs.org.uk

A wealth of information, advice and support is also available online from the Greater Merseyside Funding Information Portal: <http://www.mfip.org.uk>.

Do you need Computer Assistance?

Would you like a qualified computer volunteer to help out with your IT needs? Perhaps you would like some help with a website or installing some software? Sefton Millennium Volunteers have had a number of recent applications from people wishing to volunteer their skills to help with computers but unfortunately have few placements to offer them. If you could use a young volunteer with IT skills Email: lizzie@seftonmv.org.uk.

Time to Give Time Campaign

The Time to Give Time campaign aims to encourage VCS organisations to have an employer supported volunteering policy for their own staff. For further details visit: <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/givetime>.

Leadership in Volunteering

Volunteering England is currently working on a project to identify a range of case studies involving organisations or projects from the public, private and voluntary sectors which have shown excellent leadership in volunteering. Ideally the final nine case studies will be selected from a mixture of large and small organisations based in different parts of the UK and operating in a variety of interest areas. The case studies will generate interviews which in turn will prompt research into the particular skills and qualities common to leaders in this field.

If you have any suggestions of an organisation you know which has displayed exemplary leadership qualities, shown perhaps in the innovation or impact of a particular project Email:

kathryne.taheri@volunteeringengland.org.

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>.

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.

Funding Information Email Update

Are you a Sefton based organisation and interested in receiving free funding information? Every month, you will receive an email giving up-to-date details of local, regional and national funding sources that your organisation could make use of in its work. There will also be details of training opportunities, events and other articles to keep your organisation in touch with changes in the funding world.

To sign up simply email: philip.hurst@seftoncvcs.org.uk (type 'Register' in the Subject box) to register your email address. This email update is linked to Sefton CVS's Funding Information Website: <http://www.seftoncvcs.org.uk/fundinginfo>.

How to Break the Spell of Voluntary Work

An interesting article titled 'How to break the spell of voluntary work' was recently published in the Independent. The article states that the Government is claiming that a prime motivation of volunteers is to enhance their CV, however a new research report 'Doing One's duty: Why people volunteer in a deprived community' indicates that this is not the case. For further details:

Independent article: http://comment.independent.co.uk/columnists_a_l/mary_dejevsky/article1219455.ece.

Research: <http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/ViewAwardPage.aspx?AwardId=3183>.

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>.

Motivations of Older Volunteers

The online journal: <http://www.e-volunteerism.com> has published a research report which explores the motivations of older volunteers. Download the report (PDF Format) from:

<http://www.charityfundraising.org/Callow%20-%20Volunteering%20motives.pdf>.

Mental Health and Social Exclusion Funding

Sefton Council has received an allocation to support capital costs associated with the implementation of the recommendations of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister report 'Mental Health and Social Exclusion' published June 2004. This fund is specifically for Capital Projects focused on mental health & social inclusion work with adults aged 16+. Successful applications in 2005/06 included funding for the provision of IT, furniture and similar equipment. Allocations were also made to support building costs, information publications and equipment to support employment and day activities.

Proposals need to relate to the recommendations from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister report 'Mental Health and Social Exclusion', which includes: the provision of advice and services related to accessing and retaining employment; advice and support regarding access to opportunity for social inclusion in, for example, education, housing, arts, sports and leisure and community engagement.

Download the:

Guidelines (PDF Format): <http://www.seftoncvcs.org.uk/ddocs/Guidelines0607.pdf>

Application Form (MS Word format): <http://www.seftoncvcs.org.uk/docs/ApplicationForm0607.doc>.

Awards or All

Good news for applicants. There has not been a surge of new applications since the £10,000 maximum was introduced in March, so success rates are still extraordinarily high. Awards for All is supported by the Arts Council England, the Big Lottery Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England, with the aim of giving grants for people to take part in arts, sports, heritage and community activities, as well as projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community.

Contact the application line on Tel.: **0845 600 2040** or visit: <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk>.

Learning Loops

Ever wished you could talk to other volunteer managers on a regular basis to discuss tricky issues, learn from each other and build partnerships? If you answered 'yes', you are not alone! Many volunteer managers face difficult challenges every day and feel they would benefit greatly from meeting with others facing similar challenges. Volunteering England are creating a cross-sector network of 'learning loops' for volunteer managers. This is a chance to become part of a local group of like-minded volunteer managers who meet to discuss, learn and network - all with the aid of a highly skilled facilitator. A learning loop will meet every six to eight weeks for 4-5 hours and membership of a learning loop will last for a period of 12-18 months.

Participation in a learning loop is free. To find out more visit:

<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/managingvolunteers/excellenceinvolunteermanagementprogramme>.

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>.

Using Community Development to Strengthen Neighbourhoods and Communities

The 2006 CDX annual conference and AGM, 'Building firm foundations: using community development to strengthen neighbourhoods and communities' will take place between 13 -14 October 2006 in Loughborough. Conference fees range from £75 - £320.

For more information contact Denise Toone on Tel.: **0114 270 1718** or Email: denise@cdx.org.uk.

Big Lottery Fund - Advice Plus Programme

The Advice Plus Programme will fund projects that benefit the people who need advice and the organisations that provide it. The focus of Advice Plus is projects that support people in accessing the services and benefits they may be entitled to, such as housing, education and health services, or welfare benefits. The focus of this programme is on voluntary and community sector organisations that have experience in giving advice, or supporting those that do.

For more information Tel.: **0845 410 2030** or Email: general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk.

Volunteering Image Bank

The Image Bank contains positive photographs of volunteering, capturing the diversity of people and activities - ideal for tempting recruitment posters, eye-catching flyers and upbeat annual reports. For further information visit: <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/imagebank>.

The Philip Lawrence Awards 2006

The search is now on for The Philip Lawrence Awards winners of 2006. If you are part of a group working to make things better in your area, or are inspiring other young people to make a difference, then you could be a winner.

Do you know of, or work with a group of young people who have taken the initiative to improve their lives and those of others? If so, don't delay in nominating them. The Philip Lawrence Awards recognise outstanding achievements by young people aged 11 - 20 in their communities. The closing date for this year's awards is Friday, 15 September 2006. For more information visit: <http://www.philiplawrenceawards.org.uk>.

Sport Volunteering Seminar - Making the Right Connections

The seminar will take place on 18 October 2006 in Leicester and will bring together the world of sport and volunteering to examine volunteering in sport from national policy to local good practice and with speakers from volunteering, the voluntary sector, leisure and sport.

To find out more visit: http://www.ilam.co.uk/ev-volunteer_prog.asp.

Active People Survey

Over 1000 people in every local authority area have been asked about their volunteering over the past 6 months. Interim results of the Active People Survey (participation and volunteering rates for each Local Authority in England) based on the first six months data (October 2005 to April 2006), can be found at:

http://www.sportengland.org/london_index/london_get_resources/homepage-active_people_survey.htm.

The Active People Survey, which includes a section on volunteering, is a survey of adults (16 years and over) participation in sport and active recreation in England. This started in October 2005 and will finish with around 356,000 completed telephone interviews in October 2006. The survey is being carried out by Ipsos, MORI, on behalf of Sport England.

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>.

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>.

Big Lottery Fund - Community Buildings Fund

The Big Lottery Fund has launched its new Community Buildings Programme. The purpose of the fund is to give communities the chance to improve their quality of life by funding buildings that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. Applications are welcomed from voluntary or community organisation, parish councils or church-based faith organisations. The funding available ranges from £50,000 - £500,000 and development grants of up to £25,000 are also available.

For more information Tel.: **0845 410 2030** or Email: general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.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>.

The Effects of Short-term Volunteering in the UK

The Institute for Volunteering Research is currently looking into evidence of short-term volunteering in the UK and the effects this might have on VCS organisations. VCS organisations are being asked whether they feel that volunteers are increasingly asking for flexible, short-term volunteering opportunities and what impact this might have on their organisation. If you are interested in participating and completing an online questionnaire:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=789102452340>.

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>.

12 Key Actions of Volunteer Program Champions

A new 22-page report by American volunteering authority Betty Stallings titled '12 Key Actions of Volunteer Program Champions: CEOs Who Lead the Way' has been produced. The report has been written primarily for CEOs and explains why investing in volunteer programs brings huge dividends to an organisation. Visit: http://energizeinc.com/xmlEi/solo.php?fzg_navGrpBtn=5-219-E-1 and follow the process to download the PDF Format document.

Volunteering North West - Funding Research Report

Volunteer Centre Warrington has undertaken a research project on behalf of VNW to identify the current funding resources of Volunteer Development Agencies (principally Volunteer Centres) in the North West region, and their current workload, relating to the six core functions. This information will help VNW members to identify future funding needs, and campaign for improved core funding. Download the VNW Funding Research Project Report (PDF Format): <http://www.volunteeringnorthwest.org.uk/pdf/vnwresearch.pdf>.

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>

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