



Welcome to the first E-mail Update from the Volunteer Centre for 2007!

There have been some changes to the Volunteer Centre over the past few months and I know things have been a bit quiet on the e-mail front recently, so just to bring you up to speed and to introduce myself:

My name's Dianne Harris and I have taken over from Martin Preston as the manager of Volunteer Centre Sefton. I was previously the Volunteering Projects' Manager for Sefton CVS and managed volunteering projects such as Sefton Millennium Volunteers and SMART (a young person's mentoring project). Prior to that, I worked in the voluntary sector in the field of mental health and have also worked with groups who may be classed as more difficult to engage such as offenders, ex-offenders, asylum seekers and refugees.

Martin Preston is now working as Greater Merseyside ChangeUp Programme Manager at Sefton CVS. ChangeUp, which some of you may be involved in, is a programme of capacity building for the infrastructure of the voluntary and community sector, developed in partnership with the sector itself and which should strengthen the support and assistance available to voluntary and community organisations. Martin can be contacted on martin@changeupmerseyside.org.uk. Both Martin and the ChangeUp team can be reached on: 0151 920 0726 (Ext. 389)

Denise Grant, whom many of you will know, continues as Volunteer Centre Support Officer on a half-time basis.

The Volunteer Centre continues to operate over the two offices in Waterloo and Southport, with the main office being the Waterloo base.

Contact details for the project are now:

Dianne Harris (VC Manager)	dianne@volunteeringsefton.org.uk	(0151) 920 0726 ext 211
Denise Grant (VC Support Officer)	denise@volunteeringsefton.org.uk	(0151) 920 0726 ext 213
General enquiries	info@volunteeringsefton.org.uk	

Waterloo office:

3rd Floor, Merseyside 3tc
16 Crosby Road North
Waterloo, L22 0NY

Southport office:

7-11 Yellowhouse Lane
Southport
PR8 1ER

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

As always, the newsletter brings you a wide range of news and information relevant to local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations who involve, or may wish to involve, volunteers in their work; please forward this to anyone you feel may find it of interest.

I would also like to use this newsletter as an opportunity to update organisational contact details, so if you would prefer this newsletter to be sent to a more appropriate person within your organisation or would like people added to the e-mailing list, please let me know.

Equally, I would welcome comments and suggestions as to what you would like to see in the newsletter or contributions that may be of relevance to other VCS organisations. Please contact me at dianne@volunteeringsefton.org.uk or on the contact numbers/ addresses listed above.

You can also download previous Updates from: <http://www.volunteeringsefton.org.uk/bestpractice.htm>.

New Volunteering Portal - www.volunteeringmerseyside.org.uk

The Volunteering Merseyside (VM) portal has been designed and developed by Volunteer Centre Sefton and was funded by [Greater Merseyside ChangeUp](http://www.greatermerseysidechangeup.org.uk). The portal is the central online access point for all aspects of volunteering and volunteer management in Greater Merseyside. The site provides an extensive and comprehensive range of information and advice to both members of the public interested in volunteering and volunteer-involving organisations operating throughout Greater Merseyside.

The site offers a wide range of information, advice, guidance and facilities:

Members pages (Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, Wirral); Good Practice (80 specific sections); Downloads (55 documents available); FAQs (162 frequently asked questions answered); Site Search Facility; News (with RSS News Feeds); Online Registration (volunteers and organisations); Links (300+ links to useful websites); Jobs (paid volunteering posts); Events Calendar (searchable); Text Magnification Tools; Online Polls. Volunteering Merseyside (VM) is the name of the consortium of the 10 Greater Merseyside Volunteer Centres (VCs) and Volunteer Development Agencies (VDAs) who strive to promote, support and develop volunteering throughout Merseyside.

To access the Volunteering Merseyside portal visit: www.volunteeringmerseyside.org.uk

For further information about Volunteering Merseyside and the services it offers, email: info@volunteeringmerseyside.org.uk

Sefton Volunteer Co-ordinator's Forum – February 2007

Wednesday 28th February, 1 – 4pm

The next Volunteer Co-ordinators Forum Meeting will be held at Sefton CVS Offices, 7-11 Yellowhouse Lane, Southport, PR8 1ER.

This is an opportunity for Volunteer Co-ordinators to get together and network, as well as share ideas/ best practice and discuss current volunteering issues, both local to Sefton and regional/ national issues. There will also be a short session on current legislation concerning CRBs for volunteers and the implications for volunteer-involving organisations. Lunch will be provided from 12.30pm.

Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings, however places are limited and must be booked in advance. For further details or to book a place, e-mail: dianne@volunteeringsefton.org.uk or tel: 0151 920 0726 (Ext. 211). Equally, if there is anything you would like to see discussed/ addressed at this forum, or at future forums, please let me know.

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

The threat to funding for the local VCS from the National Lottery

All VCS organisations are asked to take action immediately to defend funding for local voluntary organisations and community groups in Sefton.

At present, the Government is short of at least £900m for the Olympics. Ministers are fighting over how to fund the Olympics. The Chancellor wants the National Lottery to provide the money. If this happens, the Big Lottery Fund, Sport England, the Arts Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund will all lose large amounts of money, much of which would otherwise go to the local voluntary and community sector. The National Lottery is also one of the main sources of future VCS funding as other sources disappear so it is of great importance that VCS organisations act now. There are a number of things that VCS organisations in Sefton can do:

Write a letter to Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, at the following address telling him that the Government should fund the Olympics without depriving the National Lottery distributors of the funds needed to support local voluntary and community sector activities.

Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road
LONDON, SW1A 2HQ

Please write also to Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport at the following address asking her not to take money away from the National Lottery distributors in order the support the Olympics.

Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP
Secretary of State
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street, LONDON, SW1Y 5DH

Please copy any letters you write to Ed Miliband the Third Sector Minister in the Office of the Third Sector and to Dawn Primarolo the Paymaster General at the Treasury who leads on the VCS for the Treasury.

Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Minister for the Third Sector
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2AS

Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP
Paymaster General
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1a 2HQ

Perhaps most importantly, write to your own local MP or MPs telling them why National Lottery funds are so important for the people served by voluntary organisations and community groups in Sefton. Please put the emphasis on the services, opportunities and activities which local people will lose as a result of a dramatic reduction in National Lottery funding.

The Chief Executive of the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), Kevin Curley, has written an open letter to VCS groups to urge them to take action to defend funding for local voluntary organisations and community groups in their area. VCS action can make a difference and a concerted VCS response could influence Government policy at this stage. £1.5 billion has already been raised/ diverted to the Olympic Games through the National Lottery and to further divert more funds would have a serious impact on future VCS activity. Volunteer Centre Sefton is also making a representation at both a local and national level to highlight this issue and the importance of the National Lottery not being used to fund the Olympics, as are other Volunteer Centres and volunteer-infrastructure organisations such as CVS'.

Please take action on this issue as a matter of urgency. Should you wish to put your name to a list of Sefton organisations that are opposing this move, please contact: dianne@volunteeringsefton.org.uk

7th North West Volunteering Conference – Making Your Mark: Marketing and Communication

28th March, 10am – 4pm, Dunes Conference Complex, Blackpool

United Co-operatives Limited and the Volunteer Centres in the North West continue to work together to promote awareness of volunteering opportunities and issues. Building on the co-operative values of self-help and social responsibility, this is the seventh "Legacy for the Future" conference.

The conference will include engaging keynote speakers from a diverse range of organisations, activities and groups. There will be a series of workshops to explore the following issues: Motivating yourself and others for marketing success; Recruiting new volunteers through targeted marketing; Managing your organisation from a marketing perspective.

The conference will be of particular interest to:

- All organisations, community groups or associations that involve volunteers in their work, including those that are all volunteer-led.
- Organisations working with volunteers in the public, voluntary and community sectors
- All employers, across all sectors, who support or wish to support their employees volunteering

Cost: £45 for statutory organisations; £37 voluntary sector paid staff; £8 per volunteer. There are also a limited number of bursaries available. Lunch and refreshments are included. For further details and bookings tel: **01706 202030** or E-mail: uncmembers@coop.co.uk or visit the website: www.united.coop

Volunteering North West Conference: Local Area Agreements & Volunteering – a perfect match?

Friday 16 March 2007, 10am – 3pm, Preston

Volunteering North West has organised a FREE conference on the topic of Local Area Agreements (LAAs) and Volunteering. This is a unique opportunity to learn more about how volunteering can help local strategic partnerships meet a range of their targets and outcomes and get recognition for the work we all do in promoting and enabling volunteering.

There will be opportunities to hear about some imaginative ways of including volunteering in Local Area Agreements from colleagues in the North West; discuss different models of baseline monitoring; explore partnership work and hear more about funding streams from those responsible for implementing and delivering Local Area Agreements and share your passion and knowledge about volunteering with people who want to hear about it.

Participants include representatives from: Volunteering England; Government Office North West; Volunteer Centres; Specialist volunteering organisations, e.g. sports volunteering, youth volunteering; Local Strategic Partnership members; Councils for Voluntary Service; those engaged in Neighbourhood Renewal initiatives and ChangeUp Consortia members.

The event will provide a mix of presentations, question and answer sessions, smaller themed workshops and discussion groups, networking opportunities and lunch.

The event takes place on Friday 16 March 2007, 10am – 3pm, at the Salvation Army, Harrington Street, Preston PR1 7BN. For directions visit www.multimap.com and enter a search for PR1 7BN.

For further details or to book a place (by 12th March), e-mail: dianne@volunteeringsefton.org.uk or tel: 0151 920 0726 (Ext. 211).

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 (LAA). The LAA is a three-year agreement between the 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 LAA 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 and provisionally includes targets around Governance; Cohesion/ Inclusion and Volunteering. The provision outcomes focus on increasing governance and guardianship within Sefton's communities through the local Voluntary and Community Sector; developing a culture of inclusion and cohesion within the communities of Sefton which celebrates and values diversity and difference; increasing the role of volunteers in delivering public services within Sefton, through Voluntary & Community Sector and Statutory agencies.

The second edition of the LAA Briefing, produced to assist the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) in keeping informed of the general developments within the Sefton LAA can now be downloaded: <http://www.seftoncvcs.org.uk/docs/laabriefing.pdf>. For further information, contact Neil Frackelton on 0151 928 2233 (Ext. 111) or e-mail: neil.frackelton@seftoncvcs.org.uk.

Mentoring & Befriending Foundation - Free events around quality standards, monitoring and evaluation for mentoring and befriending projects

Understanding APS & Impact Measurement

Haydock Park – Wednesday 7 March (closing date for bookings 19 February)

Haydock Park – Wednesday 28 March (closing date for bookings 12 March)

These events are open to all mentoring and befriending groups, large and small, throughout the North West and will focus on (1) how to apply the Approved Provider Standard (a free quality standard mark supported by the Home Office Active Communities Directorate and the Department for Education and Skills) to mentoring and befriending projects (2) how to assess your own monitoring and evaluation processes.

There will be an introductory morning session to the Approved Provider Standard (APS) followed by a best practice session facilitated by an APS achiever. There will be the opportunity to network with similar organisations and the afternoon will address 'impact measurement', what it is and how to effectively apply it to your project.

The event is free of charge to those involved with co-ordinating or running mentoring or befriending projects. For further information or to book a place at the event, contact: Anne Whelan on 0791 8070 611/ e-mail: anne.whelan@mandbf.org.uk or Rosy Dick on 0791 8070 610/ e-mail: rosy.dick@mandbf.org.uk

Every Child Matters (ECM) – Conference – February 2007

Wednesday 7th February 2007, 9.30 – 3.30, Formby

The Every Child Matters Forum, supported by the Children's Workforce Development Council and Sefton Children's Services, are hosting a major conference on the impact of reforming the children's workforce for the private, voluntary and independent sectors.

This conference will give you the opportunity to find out more about workforce development, nationally, regionally and locally and to discuss training and support needs across the private, voluntary and independent sectors. Importantly, the event will help shape the private, voluntary and independent sectors' contribution to the Sefton's workforce strategy.

A number of workshops will be delivered including: Workforce Development in the Youth Sector; Workforce development in the early years; Child Protection and Safeguarding; Common Assessment Framework; Training and Development.

In order to ensure as many people from across the sectors will be able to attend the event, funds are available to reimburse staff and volunteer expenses.

For further information, please contact Allison Moore, Every Child Matters Co-ordinator on 0151 920 0726 (ext 325) or allison.moore@seftoncvcs.org.uk

Sefton CVS Bulletin – Jan/ Feb 2007 Edition

The Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (Sefton CVS) Bulletin 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/janfebbulletin.pdf>

Local Government White Paper 2006 — Strong & Prosperous Communities

Central government has recently produced a long awaited White Paper addressing the future role of Local Government. In essence, the document is quite radical in terms of strengthening local government's leadership role in local areas whilst increase their duty to engage with partner agencies, including the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS). The Paper tackles perspectives around service delivery and increasing community participation and is part the government's aim to 'modernise' local government. It is clear from reading the two volumes within the White Paper, that the relationship between local government and the VCS and the 3rd Sector is valued and considered essential to local areas. There are a number of references to the VCS within the text, which is encouraging.

Next steps:

The White Paper makes a call for new/ amended measures which will require statutory legislation. Also, some of the specific references to the VCS requires further guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). These will cover issues such as the Local Strategic Partnerships, commissioning and community engagement. More news to follow.

NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) has produced a very useful briefing on the paper which can be found at www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/policy/index.asp?id=3536. NCVO will continue to respond to government consultation on various aspects of the White Paper, and to strive to influence government thinking within this area. The full document can be found on the DCLG web-site at www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1137789 For further information contact: Neil Frackelton on 0151 928 2233 (Ext. 111) or e-mail: neil.frackelton@seftoncvcs.org.uk.

Need help with funding applications or require funding information?

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 competing 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.mcinnis@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>.

Equally, if you would like to receive regular e-mails giving free up-to-date details of local, regional and national funding sources that your organisation could make use of in its work, please e-mail: 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>.

Quick Guide to Annual Accounts

A new document, produced by the Sefton CVS' Community Accountancy Project, is now available to download. The guide is aimed at management committee members of charitable organisations and provides a brief description of their responsibilities for annual accounts. <http://www.seftoncvcs.org.uk/docs/quickguide.pdf>

Crime Reduction and Community Safety Partnership

The Crime and Disorder act (1998) places a statutory duty on local authorities and key partners - including the Police - to work in partnership to address crime and disorder problems.

The Sefton Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) has produced its latest strategy (2005-2008), the aim of which is to direct, inform, and shape crime reduction and community safety activity within Sefton.

The five current key priorities identified in the strategy are: To reduce 'priority crime'; to reduce fear of crime and anti-social behaviour; to reduce harm caused by illegal drugs; to increase voluntary and community engagement; to make the environment cleaner, safer and greener.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Team at Sefton CVS are responsible for delivering on key priority four - 'to increase voluntary and community engagement', the overall aim of which is 'to increase the capacity of local communities so that people are empowered to participate in local decision-making and are able to influence service delivery.' With this in mind, the team are forming mailing lists on people interested in receiving information on the progress of the 5 key priorities and are also facilitating a series of focus groups looking at the strategy. For further information or to engage with the process, contact Ann Cartwright, Information and Monitoring Officer on **(0151) 928 2233**, ext. **311**, or email ann.cartwright@seftoncvcs.org.uk

Help required – Sefton Alcohol Services evaluation

Sefton CVS, in partnership with Sefton Primary Care Trust and its partners are currently looking at Alcohol Services available in Sefton and whether they meet the needs of the people using them. Gill Blane, who is undertaking the research, is looking for people who live in the Sefton area who have used, or are still using Alcohol services, or people who have responsibility for looking after and supporting an alcohol user(s). The aim is to determine if the alcohol services that are being provided now are meeting the needs of the people using the services; to find out what issues people face; what support people have (if any) and what alcohol services people would like to have, if the services are not meeting current need. Sefton Primary Care Trust and its partners will then be informed of the results, who can then use the information to plan future alcohol services aimed at better meeting need.

There are a number of ways to get involved: (1) becoming part of a focus group (2) Filling in a questionnaire (3) Taking part in an interview. **All names and details will remain confidential.**

For further information or to get involved, contact Gill Blane at Sefton CVS on 0151 285 4050 or e- mail: gill.blane@seftoncvcs.org.uk

v news and grants information

v launched its first grants round on 8 May 2006, which resulted in the commissioning of over 41,000 volunteering opportunities involving 106 different organisations in the voluntary sector. To conclude the first grants round, v is announcing an application process which is designed to commission additional opportunities within specific target groups as v have identified that there are some areas of the community that are under-represented and will be looking exclusively at applications from organisations which can address these 'gaps'.

Full details of the grants process, including eligibility and the specific target groups of young people, can be found on our website www.wearev.com. This grant process will provide funding for projects to be delivered between April 2007 and March 2008.

In February v are also launching a new grant fund directed squarely at young people. The Youth Fund has been developed with the leadership of v's advisory board v20 and is a simple and effective way for young people to get involved in volunteering projects. v hope to involve up to 1,000 youth workers in the fund's deployment, as well as running a major awareness campaign across a range of media.

Final details of the youth fund and the application process will be accessible from www.wearev.com and the young people's site www.vinspired.com.

v's youth advisory board, v20, is reaching the end of its one year tenure and v are now looking to recruit the next set of twenty young volunteers to work with them. They are running a recruitment campaign in selected print media, on-line and through their networks of young people. For any organisation working with young people, please let them know that this volunteering opportunity is available. Full details can be obtained from www.vinspired.com or young people can call 0870 224 1446 to get information by post. Applications have to be in

by February 23rd, successful applicants will know by the end of March, and the new v20 will kick off in April.

BT Community Connections Award Scheme

BT Community Connections is a nationwide award scheme that connects local community and voluntary groups to the Internet and enables them to get on-line. Since 2000, the scheme has awarded more than 4,600 internet-ready PCs to community and voluntary organisations. In 2006/7 over 1300 awards will be made to groups who can demonstrate how a PC and internet connection will benefit their work and the local community.

To apply for an award log on to www.btcommunityconnections.com for an application form. You can view case studies of previous winners and judges' top tips to help you complete your application. Successful applicants in the past include elderly silver-surfer groups, disability groups, music groups, refugee support groups, youth groups, environmental groups, victim support groups, cultural groups, family support groups and sport groups.

Key Date: Thursday 15 February 2007. Every application will be assessed and those short-listed will be judged by a regional panel in England, or national panel in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Previous BT Community Connections award winners may be eligible for the e-effective Connection award. You can apply online for an enhanced package of IT equipment, such as laptops, printers, scanners and digital cameras - log on to www.btcommunityconnections.com for further information.

Campbell Robb appointed new Director of the Office of the Third Sector

The Prime Minister has approved the appointment of Campbell Robb to be Director General, Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.

Campbell Robb will be responsible for driving the government's strategic approach to enhance and enable a thriving third sector. Working to ministers in the Cabinet Office, his role will include: Coordinating work on cross-government delivery programmes to help develop an effective third sector; Working with third sector organisations to help the Government develop sustainable and prosperous communities; Drawing on the strengths of the third sector in helping to improve public services; taking forward the Government's agenda on encouraging the growth of social enterprise.

Campbell - currently director of policy at the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) - will work with Hilary Armstrong, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Ed Miliband, Minister for the Third Sector, in the Cabinet office.

Review on the future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration

As part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, the Office of the Third Sector is working in partnership with the HM Treasury's Charity and Third Sector Finance Unit to conduct a review on the future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration. Working with the sector, the outcome of the review is to set out a longer term vision shaped by the sector, marking a new phase in the relationship between Government and the third sector. The Interim Report of the Treasury and Cabinet Office Review on the Future Role of the Third Sector was published on 6th December 2006 (http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/53E/94/pbr06_3rd_sector_428.pdf).

The first stage of the review involved the largest ever consultation with the third sector and the interim report sets out the direction of travel for the next stage of the review. The next stage of the review is about addressing the specific questions set out in the interim review report and attempting to define the longer term vision for the sector. This will take place between January and March 2007 and organisations are now being asked to provide more evidence from the sector to inform that longer term vision. Organisations are being asked to (1) complete an on-line questionnaire (2) send the review team further evidence. Organisations do not have to respond to every question, more the ones which they feel are most relevant to organisation.

The section of the questionnaire that is particularly relevant is 'Stronger and Connected Communities' and in terms of where they are looking for further evidence, there are two areas that are particularly connected to volunteering, although volunteering obviously does span other areas:

- Volunteering opportunities within the public services (Interim Report ref 4.27)
- Value of volunteering in building skills, particularly in preparing people for employment (Interim Report ref 4.27)

The closing date for submissions of the questionnaire or further evidence is **28 February 2007**. To engage in the consultation, please go through the website: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/third_sector_review/

Get on Board campaign 2007

On 23 January the Governance Hub launched the public phase of its **Get on Board** trustee recruitment campaign, in partnership with Volunteering England (VE) and the Charity Commission.

Get on Board is an England-wide campaign, which sets out to raise the profile of trusteeship and inspire more people to volunteer their time in this vital role within voluntary and community organisations. For more information on the campaign visit www.getonboard.org.uk or VE's website: www.volunteering.org.uk

Capacitybuilders Consultation

In December, Capacitybuilders launched a consultation on 'Destination 2014', seeking views on how to deliver the ChangeUp vision for a transformed voluntary and community sector by 2014. The consultation document outlines Capacitybuilders' vision for the Third Sector and puts forward a strategic framework of activities in three phases: 2006-08; 2008-11; and 2011-14. Capacitybuilders' key objectives are: to improve the quality and efficiency of infrastructure support, to encourage extra investment in infrastructure; to ensure infrastructure support reaches diverse groups; to influence policy and practice of other funders in this field.

Capacitybuilders now plans to work in consultation with third sector organisations on the development of Destination 2014 before agreeing a final version of the document. Capacitybuilders wants to listen to the views of the sector and is encouraging involvement in a number of ways including through a series of regional consultation events.

This consultation will run until the end March 2007 and the North West regional consultation event has been organised for ChangeUp Consortia, infrastructure organisations and other organisations with an interest in capacity building so that they can feed in their views. The event will also provide information and an excellent networking opportunity for local, sub-regional and regional consortia members and interested infrastructure agencies.

The event is taking place on 27 February 2007 at The Gujarati Centre, South Meadow Lane, Preston, PR1 8JN
www: <http://www.ghspreston.co.uk/>

If you would like to book a place please contact: Anna Sevink, Voluntary Sector North West, St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester, M12 6FZ. Tel: 0161 276 9300 or email: info@vsnw.org.uk. Further information is available on the Destination 2014 website: www.destination2014.org.uk
Other ways of participating in the consultation event include downloading and completing a consultation questionnaire or participating in the online blog. Both can be accessed through the website: www.destination2014.org.uk

Greater Merseyside ChangeUp Consolidation Fund

In Destination 2014 (published 7 December 2006) Capacitybuilders states that it is looking for '**evolution not revolution**' in the actions taken towards achieving the high level outcomes of ChangeUp. In this spirit the Consolidation Fund has no intention of supporting repetition of work undertaken previously. This programme is revenue only and open to organisations that have already received funds as part of the ChangeUp programme. The intention is to consolidate investment from the first programme. The recommended guide for funding available is £500 - £10,000.

All organisations who have previously and successfully delivered Greater Merseyside ChangeUp funded Interventions during 2005/06 are invited to apply for funding from the new Consolidation Fund. This includes all interventions commissioned through the Infrastructure Investment Plan, Infrastructure Investment Fund and the Black & Racial Minorities (BRM) Infrastructure Investment Fund. Organisations interested in applying for funding to further develop interventions must complete the 'Consolidation Fund Commissioning Document'.

Commissioning Documents will be externally appraised by Community Foundation for Merseyside and assessed by the Greater Merseyside ChangeUp Funders Reference Group. Decisions will be completed and communicated by 30 March 2007 and it is anticipated that successful applicants will commence work at the start of April 2007.

Organisations must email a copy of the completed Commissioning Document to Neil McAlley from the Community Foundation for Merseyside: neil@cfmerseyside.org.uk by 4.00pm on Friday 9 February 2007 at the very latest. Neil can also be contacted by Tel.: 0151 966 3534.

Sports Volunteering North West (SVNW)

Sports Volunteering NW is a new independent regional body, which has been developed to effectively represent volunteers and the voluntary sector in sport and physical activity in the North West.

The principle aims of Sports Volunteering NW are: To be the leading voice for volunteers in sport and physical activity in the North West; to increase the quality and quantity of volunteers working in sport and physical activity; to widen access to volunteering for everyone.

For further details about this organisation: <http://www.sportsvolunteeringnw.org/>

Mersey Sports Partnership:

As a VCS organisation, for details about how you can link up locally with a sports network in your area, please contact:

Andrew Wileman, IM Marsh Campus, LJMU, Barkhill Rd, Liverpool L17 6BD

Tel: 0151 231 5386

Email: a.wileman@ljmu.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.merseysidesport.com/>

MSP also produces a bi-monthly newsletter. To subscribe: newsletter@merseysidesport.com

Hands Up for Sports Volunteering Conference

The inaugural Sports Volunteering North West Regional Conference, Hands Up for Sports Volunteering is taking place on **23rd June 2007** at JJB Sports Stadium in Wigan. The conference is aimed at current and potential sports volunteers and organisations able to support the work of volunteers.

For further details about this event: <http://www.sportsvolunteeringnw.org/>

Tools of the Trade – A one-day conference for anyone involved in volunteering

24th February, Leeds

Aimed at Volunteer Centre managers, managers in a volunteer-involving organisation, or staff working with volunteers in any capacity, this one-day conference will showcase the practical resources and initiatives developed by the Volunteering Hub. These include:

Introduction to using the National Occupational Standards for Managing Volunteers; The Investing in Volunteers toolkit; The Launch of the Excellence in Volunteer Management training programme; Details of the new funding model for Volunteer Centres; The online Good Practice Bank; Launch of the ultimate toolkit for Volunteer Centre managers.

The day includes inspirational guest speakers, practical advice, workshops, a small exhibition, networking opportunities and a question and answer session with expert panellists. Prices are VE members - £80/ Non members - £100

For further information, please email: events@volunteeringengland.org

Website: <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/aboutus/events/>

Excellence In Volunteer Management Programme

The Excellence In Volunteer Management (EVM) programme was launched on 24 January 2007 in London. EVM is designed around organisations needs and aims to enable them to gain an accredited qualification in volunteer management. The programme features e-learning opportunities, FAQs, a good practice bank, publications and information sheets.

EVM is a programme designed to enable managers of volunteers to take charge of their own learning. It aims to provide multiple options to suit specific learning needs and preferences – all of which are accessible from the Volunteering England (VE) website.

EVM provides managers of volunteers with the opportunity to: gain a recognised qualification; choose from a wealth of learning resources; join a network of like-minded managers of volunteers. For further information visit: www.volunteering.org.uk/managingvolunteers/EVM/

New Grants for Voluntary and Community groups in Sefton

The Community Foundation for Merseyside has announced the Sefton Partnership Grants Programme for voluntary and community groups in the Borough of Sefton. This innovative programme involves contributions from Merseyside Police, Sefton MBC, BHP Billiton and the Community Foundation itself. Grants will be made from £50 up to a maximum of £10,000 for exceptional proposals.

Funding will be offered to projects that specifically aim to contribute towards the following themes: Safer, Stronger Communities; Children and Young People; Healthier Communities and Older People; Economic Development.

One of the aims of this fund is to encourage groups to apply for small pots of money – i.e. £500 – to tackle youth anti-social behaviour through a range of diversionary activities and also for crime prevention initiatives. All funds must be allocated by March 007.

If you represent a voluntary or community group that is looking to start a project focusing on any of the above and you need a grant, contact the Foundation straight away. For more information and application packs, email info@cfmerseyside.org.uk or call **(0151) 966 4604**.

Criminal Records Bureau - on-line tracking service

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has today launched its first online service. This is an important milestone, as it is the first service delivered on its new e-platform. From today, customers can track online, for the first time, the progress of their CRB application, from receipt through to issue.

The online tracking service will provide customers with greater clarity and visibility over the application process. Customers can access the service, free of charge, from the CRB website (www.crb.gov.uk/tracking) by entering the application form reference number and the applicant's date of birth.

VITA - toolkits

Volunteering in the Third Age (VITA) was a two-year Home Office funded project that ended in November 2006. VITA's remit was to promote volunteering by people aged 65 and over and encourage more voluntary groups to recruit from this age group.

VITA wishes to leave a legacy for the benefit of the sector as a whole so that the learning of the initiative can be shared with organisations that involve older people in the delivery of their services. They have produced a good practice guide for involving older volunteers, and two toolkits, one for involving older disabled volunteers and another for involving older BME volunteers. These are available to download at http://www.vitavolunteering.org.uk/research_guides.php. For further information, website: www.vitavolunteering.org.uk

Certificate in Interpersonal Skills for Volunteers (CIPSV) – distance learning, free (some conditions apply)

The Certificate in Interpersonal Skills for Volunteers (which is worth 40 credits at university level) is run as a distance learning course by Lampeter University and is specifically designed for students working in the voluntary sector. The course offers the opportunity to gain recognition by formal validation through a series of written assignments which encourage students to reflect on their role in the voluntary sector. The course covers a variety of topics including volunteer roles, confidentiality, interpersonal skills, an introduction to the use of counselling skills, problem solving and equal opportunities. There are a number of bursaries available for students applying to study this course should the opportunity for fees to be waived not be appropriate. For further information:

<http://www.volstudy.ac.uk/programme/modules/1VOL0140.html>

New Sefton Networks

Three new networks have recently or are being launched to help ensure that a diverse range of communities have a voice in Sefton:

The Fawcett Society meets on a monthly basis and aims to support women who live or work in Sefton (it does not exclude men if they wish to attend). The Fawcett Society is a campaigning organisation that works to achieve equality between women and men, through transforming society's attitudes and behaviour. Fawcett currently has three main areas of focus – women and employment, particularly low pay and equal pay; pensions and financial security in old age; women and democracy.

A new network for men is also being developed. Called Talking Men, the network aims to support men who live or work in Sefton with issues which affect their daily lives.

There is also a new network which aims to offer support, information and advice to Transgender and Intersex men and women in Sefton around issues which may affect their lives.

The three networks are being supported by Tony Griffin, Sefton Equalities Partnership Gender Lead Officer, and you can contact him on **(0151) 928 2233**, ext. **306**, or email: anthony.griffin@equalities.seftoncvcs.org.uk. If you are unable to attend meetings but would like to be involved, you can be placed on the members database and receive information or contribute via email.

International Women 's Day takes place on 8th March 2007 and a celebration/event is being planned to support the day. If you want to become involved or contribute ideas then please contact Tony Griffin.

The Commission on the Future of Volunteering - Consultation

The Commission on the Future of Volunteering was established by the England Volunteering Development Council to develop a long-term vision for volunteering in England as a legacy of the Year of the Volunteer 2005. As part of a wide-ranging review on the future of volunteering in England, between now and 1st June the Commission is consulting widely in order to find out what volunteers and non-volunteers alike think about questions such as the ones below:

- Does volunteering mean the same to everyone?
- Should we expect people from all cultures and backgrounds to volunteer?
- Are government initiatives in the sector helping or hindering?

The Commission (which is due to present its findings in Autumn 2007) wants to hear from volunteers and organisations in the voluntary, public and private sectors, in all regions of England, regardless of their background or experience; the consultation will be focusing on the following areas for evidence:

- The relationship between volunteering and government
- Volunteering is for all
- Developing a culture of volunteering

In each of the areas they have asked a number of questions. Some of these questions are suitable for individuals, some are suitable for organisations, and some are suitable for both individuals and organisations. Again, answer the questions most relevant to you/ your organisation. For further information or to get involved in the consultation, visit: <http://www.volcomm.org.uk/getinvolved/>

Development Trusts Association (DTA) – Free asset based development seminars

Viability not Liability!

As part of a programme of work commissioned by the Merseyside Social Enterprise Initiative (MSEI), DTA will be holding a series of three regional asset based development seminars aimed at organisations in the third sector on Merseyside. The seminars will look at issues such as:

- o Negotiating asset transfer or purchase – avoiding turkeys and lemons
- o Managing assets – getting the details right
- o Developing assets – nearly all you need to know
- o Financing assets – how not to dance to someone else's tune
- o Getting help for your project – critical friends

These seminars will comprise of a **Generic** event; an event for **Absolute Beginners** and a **Masterclass** – taking place in Liverpool on 1st March, 2nd March and 8th March, respectively. The events are all full day events and will include lunch and refreshments. The events are free of charge but an administrative fee of £25 per person is payable with the booking to cover administration charges. This fee will be returned to attendees at the event.

For further information, contact Christina O'Donnell on 0151 523 7195 or e-mail: c.odonnell@dt.org.uk

Website: www.dta.org.uk

Media Trust – Free New Media Seminars

New Media Made Cheap and Easy seminars

Media Trust is holding free seminars throughout England to give small to medium not-for-profit organisations the skills to use a range of new media communication and marketing tools. Media Trust is working in partnership with

the ICT Hub to deliver these seminars which are three hour sessions at introductory level.

These seminars are run by a leading new media consultant, and will feature practical advice and examples of free internet techniques such as blogging, podcasting and wikis. The seminar will highlight the need for charities to use various online internet techniques to help with their internal and external communications, to create awareness of their organisations and to help increase funds. Dates in the North West are as follows:

Chester - Tues 20 March; Blackpool - Thurs 22 March; (Newcastle -Wed 18 April); Carlisle - Thurs 19 April

For further information or to book onto an event, please visit their website: www.mediatrust.org. Please note you must be a charity or not-for-profit organisation with less than an annual turnover of £2million to attend.

Stress Awareness Training Sessions for the Trustees, Managers, Staff & Volunteers of Voluntary and Community Organisations in Merseyside

Health@Work is a voluntary organisation working to prevent ill health in the workplace. The service offers support to organisations around putting in place policies, systems and practices which minimise the impact of stress, and also delivers direct support to individuals whose health is being affected by stress in the workplace.

These sessions offer an overview of: The causes of stress; the physical effects of stress; coping strategies; legal requirements; costs to businesses; stress prevention policies and good practice. The sessions can be followed up with further free, direct support to address individual or organisational issues within your own workplace.

Training sessions are 9.00am – 4.30pm and will be held in Health@Work's offices in Liverpool at a cost of £55pp

For further information, or to book a place, contact: Danielle Maloney on 0151 236 6608 or email: danielle@healthatworkcentre.org.uk Website: <http://www.healthatworkcentre.org.uk/>

Sahir House – Open Day/ Training Events – February/ March 2007

Sahir House, a multicultural HIV support and information centre in Merseyside, is having an Open Day for people who may be interested in their voluntary opportunities. The event takes place on **Saturday 17th February 2007**.

Sahir House also run HIV Awareness Training Courses, which can be done in-house for organisations wishing to access the training or are held at Sahir House in Liverpool City Centre. The next course at Sahir House is a one-day course on **Thursday 22nd March 2007**, the cost is £65 per person and includes lunch (Halal & vegetarian friendly), refreshments, Information Pack & Certificate of Attendance.

For more information, either about the open day or the training opportunities, contact Cath Turner, Volunteer Mentor & Training Coordinator at info@sahir.uk.com or 0151 707 0606/ 708 9080, website: www.sahir.uk.com

Free workshops for people who suffer from mild to moderate depression or anxiety

Creative Alternatives is a new remedy for stress, anxiety and depression which can be accessed free by residents of Sefton. Extensive research shows that the arts can have a positive impact on mental wellbeing. For this reason Sefton Council and Sefton Primary Care Trust are now offering creative activities as an alternative, or in addition, to medication for people.

When people join the service, they receive a free arts and leisure schedule tailored to meet their interests and needs. The workshop schedule may include painting, sculpture, photography, drama, dance, music, creative writing or crafts as well as free gallery, theatre and museum visits.

Workshops began at the end of January on Monday afternoons at Netherton Arts Centre and Tuesday afternoons at Formby Clinic. New workshops will be added depending on where the majority of clients live. Attendance at these workshops is by GP or health professional referral only.

For further information contact Elizabeth Lovell on 07792 000369 or email info@creativealternatives.org.uk

Mental Health Training

The Clued-In Project (part of Imagine, a Mental Health charity based on Merseyside) is a leading provider of service-user led training. All trainers have direct personal experience of mental distress which ensures that all training sessions are powerful and impacting as well as informative and educational. The Project has delivered

training to over 900 people from over 30 different organisations in just 18 months.

The Clued-In Project delivers tailor-made training sessions at discounted rates to voluntary and community based organisations. Some of the current training topics include: Understanding Schizophrenia; Understanding Depression; Mental Health Awareness; Understanding Self Harm and Older People's Mental Health

For further details please contact Angela Newton on 0151 703 7799 or at clued-in@imaginementalhealth.org.uk

National Youth Agency Training

The National Youth Agency is holding a series of workshops in Leicester aimed at first line youth workers who are looking for practical ways to engage young people. They have an on-going programme throughout the year with day courses on a variety of topics. They have a discounted rate of £95 available for voluntary organisations and regional charities. Their current training programme *Ideas into Action* includes:

22 February: Practical Detached Effective Street-based Youth Work; **16 March:** Young People and Alcohol – Raising Awareness, Building Skills; **30 March:** Drama in Youth Work – Encouraging Young People to Express Themselves; **20 April:** Young People and Drugs – Raising Awareness, Building Skills

For further information, contact the Events Team on 0116 242 7501, or e-mail events@nya.org.uk
Website: www.nya.org.uk

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Further Information

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