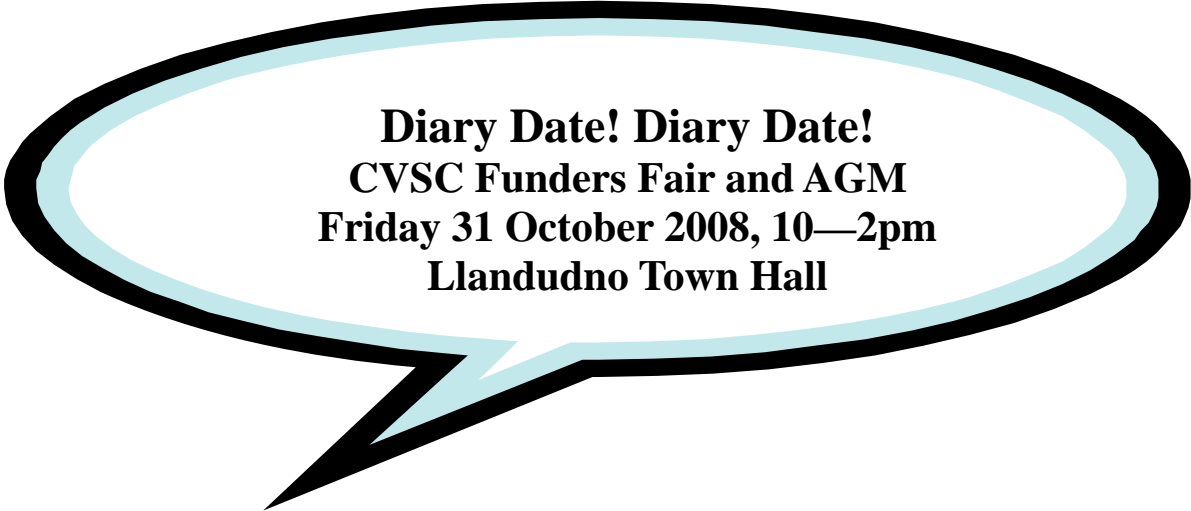


CVSC

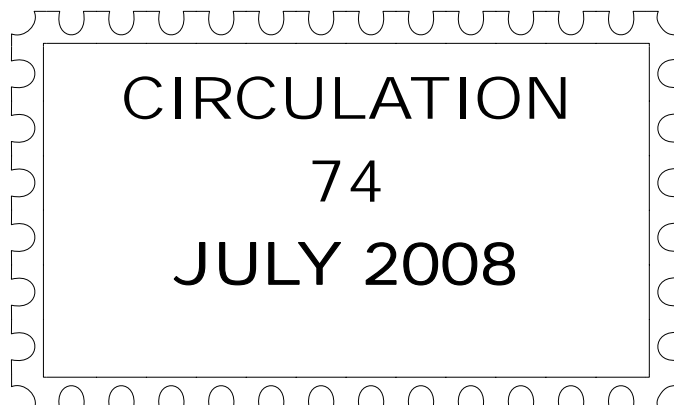
Conwy Voluntary Services Council
Cyngor Gwasanaethau Gwirfoddol Conwy

CGGC

www.cvsc.org.uk



Diary Date! Diary Date!
CVSC Funders Fair and AGM
Friday 31 October 2008, 10—2pm
Llandudno Town Hall



E mail: mail@cvsc.org.uk
Registered Charity 1061697
Company Limited by Guarantee 3867751
Registered in Wales

**Working with Voluntary Organisations, Community groups
and volunteers in Conwy**

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The next edition of this newsletter will be distributed in October 2008

Should you or your organisation wish to contribute a news item or flyer - then please forward to Jan Smith, Information Officer, by Tuesday 30 September 2008

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of CVSC. We reserve the right to edit for publication. This newsletter was designed, printed and distributed by CVSC.

Our mailings are available, by request, in large print, disk or Braille and also on audio cassette (Courtesy of Y Gadwyn, Charity no. 1030284 and Colwyn Link Talking Newspaper, Charity no. 514106)

CVSC acknowledge receipt of funding from:

Welsh Assembly Government, Conwy County Borough Council and Conwy Local Health Board



For your community information needs
visit:
www.conwycommunitydirectory.org.uk

July 2008

Welcome to the summer edition of the CVSC quarterly newsletter. Once again we have an interesting and full newsletter for your attention. Please note that only those organisations who have renewed their membership for this financial year have received the full comprehensive mailing this time around. Therefore—to ensure you keep your organisation fully up to date please complete the enclosed membership form—or contact us here on 01492 534091

New E-Mail format service

This July edition of our newsletter has gone out in e-mail format to over 90 organisations who have indicated that this would be an acceptable format. This is in direct response to reader requests, but also helps us to more efficient and effective in saving time and resources.

If your organisation could benefit from this service—please let us know either on 01492 534091 or mail@cvsc.org.uk

Diary Date! Diary Date!

CVSC Funders Fair and AGM “Local Funding Opportunities in Conwy”

Date: Friday 31 October 2008 10—2pm

Venue: Llandudno Town Hall

Join us for our 2008 annual event!

- ◆ Come along and find out about the local opportunities there are for funding.
- ◆ Take part in informal workshops including “Top tips for form filling” “Why bids fail”.
- ◆ Meet the funders face to face. Attendance from WREN, Clwyd Community Chest, Sportlot Community Chest, CAE already and more to follow.....
- ◆ Awards
- ◆ New edition of “Conwy Funding Guide” available on the day



Success at the Urdd Conwy 2008!

The 6 North Wales CVC's hosted a stand and promoted both the general services available and of course the benefits of the Millenium Volunteering scheme for young people.

94 young people filled in the questionnaires on the topic of volunteering and the winner of the ipod shuffle was Ffion Lois Jones from Blaenau Ffestiniog.

CVSC Llanrwst Job Vacancy

CLERICAL ASSISTANT / RECEPTIONIST PART TIME

20 hours per week – Llanrwst Office. (SCP 4) £11,577pa (pro rata)

General administration duties. Must have good ICT skills particularly in Microsoft Office

Further details and application form available on our website www.cvsc.org.uk or from the Colwyn Bay Head Office

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified. Therefore, if you have not heard by 14 August 2008, we regret that on this occasion you have been unsuccessful.

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Awards

New edition of “Conwy Funding Guide” available on the day

Full information in our October newsletter!!!

Be Informed! The Sustainable funding visit scheme

- ◆ Are you a third sector organisation operating in Wales and committed to working towards financial sustainability?
- ◆ If so, you could receive funding to visit other organisations with first hand experience of developing a sustainable funding approach.

Find out more from www.sustainablefundingcymru.org.uk

Welsh Church Acts Fund—organisations, associations and clubs in Conwy are invited to apply for financial assistance from the Welsh Church Acts Fund.

Grants of between £50 and £2,000 are available for charitable purposes. More information about the fund and the application criteria is available from www.conwy.gov.uk/wca or contact Catherine Dowber on 01492 576201 or e-mail cath.dowber@conwy.gov.uk

WREN – Small Grants Fund Landfill Community Fund distributors, WREN, have launched a new Small Grants fund, in addition to their Main Grants fund. Grants are available ranging between £2,000 and £15,000, for projects, which have a total cost below £50,000. Funding is available for the creation and improvement of public amenities and facilities, such as

- ◆ Village Hall/Community Centre
- ◆ Public Park/Skate Park
- ◆ MUGA Country Park
- ◆ Cycleway/ Bridleway
- ◆ Museum / Recreation Ground
- ◆ Nature Reserve / Village Green
- ◆ Public footpath/ towpath
- ◆ Sports Club (excluding membership only clubs)
- ◆ Play area (not on School grounds)

All awards must be spent and projects completed within 12 months of funding decision. Only projects based within 10 miles of a Waste Recycling Group Ltd landfill site are eligible to apply. The site in the Conwy area is located in Llanddulas. Applications are assessed by an individual panel of locally based experts. The deadline for inclusion at the next panel meeting is 18 July 2008, and meetings thereafter will be quarterly throughout the year.

To find more and if your project is eligible please visit www.wren.org.uk or contact Meleri Jones, Wales Project Manager on tel: 01248 674 907 e-mail: meleri.jones@wren.org.uk or Marie at Wren head office on 01953714112, e-mail: marie.ramsey@wren.org.uk

Charity Commission launches new publications on complaints and conflicts

The Charity Commission have recently launched two important new publications. The first is the updated **CC47 “Complaints about Charities.”** It explains when they will and won't take up complaints, and the information that they need. It also provides guidance on making a complaint under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, sometimes known as “whistleblowing.” The second publication is the new guidance for trustees **“Conflicts in your Charity.”** This outlines when the Commission will or will not get involved in a dispute, and provides contact details of organisations that are able to offer additional information and support. Available from www.charity-commission.gov.uk

The **Colwyn in Bloom Committee** having had such excellent results over the past six years in the Wales in Bloom competitions are wanting to attract a greater community participation in future years competitions.

They would also welcome more participants in the annual Colwyn in Bloom Competition. These for those in Rhos-on-Sea, Old Colwyn or the town.

If you are a keen gardener, if you are a member of a voluntary group who would like to carry out a grant-aided site project, or if you have a business with an attractive planted frontage why not become involved?

If you are interested contact either the Bay of Colwyn Town Hall or Cliff Prout, 01492 512740.'

6 STEPS TO IMPROVE YOUR SECURITY

Step 1: Update your software - When updates become available for a program that you use, install it as soon as possible. Updates fix security vulnerabilities that allow attackers to gain access to your computer.

Step 2: Install virus and software protection - Computer viruses and spyware are malicious software that can disrupt your workplace computer systems. Install antivirus and anti-spyware on every PC to help thwart these troublemakers.

Step 3: Set up a firewall - A firewall helps stop hackers, viruses, and other threats from reaching your computer. Having firewall protection for every computer in your office is essential.

Step 4: Back up data, Back up, Back up - You should make a backup copy of the critical information stored on your computers. That way you can restore data that is lost or corrupted due to malicious attacks, hard-disk failure, or other causes.

Step 5: Guard against theft - Information on your computer is at risk from any person who sees an opportunity to grab your computer and walk (or run) away with it. Since laptop's are portable, they are especially vulnerable.

Step 6: Use strong passwords - Don't make it easy for the bad guys to access your system by using easily guessed passwords. Your password should contain at least 7 characters, have a mix of upper and lower case letters, numbers and keyboard symbols. It's not a good idea to write your password on a post-it note and stick it on your monitor!

Useful websites:

<http://www.itsafe.gov.uk/>

<http://www.getsafeonline.org/>

<http://www.lockdown.co.uk/>

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/555540>

Kindly rovided by Sue Jackson of ByteBack Training

New CVSC Information Sheets:

- ◆ Redundancy Policy
- ◆ Equal Opportunities Policy
- ◆ Whistleblowing
- ◆ Retirement
- ◆ Disciplinary
- ◆ Accounting for volunteer's time in funding
- ◆ Introduction to Payroll
- ◆ Payroll fundraising
- ◆ Payroll giving consortia

All available through the Information Section of the CVSC website www.cvsc.org.uk

**Derws Neighbourhood Watch Charity Shop,
1 Market Street, Llandudno. Open 6 days a week
9.30—4pm**

**St David's Hospice Dawn Walk Saturday
16 August 2008.** A ladies only, sponsored 9 mile walk starting at first light 3.45am
To register contact 01492 879058

Congratulations to **Mel Lewis of Llandudno Junction Community Club** for being selected as a regional winner under the Community—Individual category for the Wales region of the Nationwide Community & Heritage Awards!
Good luck Mel, in the next rounds of finalists!

Children & Young People's Partnership



Estyn are coming to Conwy to inspect Youth Support Services, Children & Young People's Partnership and Education, week commencing 7 November. All services to young people (11+) could potentially fall into this process. It is important that everyone involved in the partnership works together to ensure there is a joint approach to the self evaluation and inspection process.

Relevant themed moderation workshops took place as follows:

14 July (AM - Education, Training, Work Experience, Basic Skills)

14 July (PM - Careers, Counselling, Student Support, Counselling Services, Personal Support and Advice, Information and Advice on Health, Housing Benefits, and other issues)

15 July (AM - Recreation, Social Opportunities, Sports, Music and Outdoor Experiences)

15 July (PM - Consultation, Participation, Citizenship, and Volunteering)

16 July (AM - Management and Leadership).

It was important that all partners were involved in the moderation workshop process as the workshops brought organisations together in 'Area' groups, based on entitlement clusters and allowed

- ◆ information to be shared,
- ◆ judgements to be 'challenged'
- ◆ evidence sources to be looked at.

If anyone wants to start completing their self evaluation form and if you have any queries with this process please contact: **Debbie Anchors** 01492 868426, debbie.anchors@conwy.gov.uk or **Ann Westmoreland** 01492 523849 or annwestmoreland@cvsc.org.uk

Blank and example self assessment templates are available to download from the CVSC website within the Partnership section, on the CYP page www.cvsc.org.uk

Welcome to **Dafydd Hughes** and **Kelly Bee**, the recently appointed **Regional Play Development Officers for the North West Wales Play Partnership**. The posts are funded by the Big Lottery and are being hosted by Conwy County Borough Council until the Partnership becomes a constituted body in its own right. Kelly is the lead officer in Conwy and South Gwynedd and is based with Conwy Voluntary Services Council and Dafydd is leading in Ynys Mon and North Gwynedd and is based with Medrwn Mon in Llangefni. In addition, Gwynedd County Council has provided outreach bases in Porthmadog and Pwllheli Leisure Centres.

Their role consists of raising the profile of play within these counties and developing more play opportunities for all children and young people within the community. This is a great opportunity to discuss potential projects which adhere to the principles of play (see www.playwales.com)

Their campaign will begin with 'National Play Day' on the 6th of August 2008. There will be an event at Plas Pawb in Caernarfon (Gwynedd), The Dingle Llangefni (Mon) and Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay (tbc) (Conwy).

"Playday is the annual celebration of children's right to play. Playday is a national campaign – now in its 21st year – where thousands of children and young people get out and play at locally organised events." (see www.playday.org.uk)

For further information on play or to express an interest in any potential play projects then don't hesitate to contact either Kelly Bee on 07733012796 or Dafydd Hughes on 07733012793 or you can email at kelly.bee@conwy.gov.uk or dafydd.m.hughes@conwy.gov.uk

REGIONAL TRAINING FRAMEWORK**CVSC**

- **Skills for negotiation and influencing others**, 18 September 08, 9.30—4.30pm.
- **Grants – Fit 4 Funding**, 19 September 08, 9.30 – 3.30pm
- **Staff Induction and Development**, 26 September 08, 1 – 4pm
- **Trustee Management**, 13 October 08, 9 – 1pm
- ◆ **Charity Annual Accounts and audit**, 16 October 08, 10 – 4
- ◆ **Roles and Responsibilities of Trustees**, 6 November 08, 10 – 4pm

All venues CVSC Offices, Colwyn Bay.

These courses are costed at £100 per day (£50 per 1/2 day), but are heavily subsidised by WAG and offered to CVSC Member organisations at £20 (£10), Wider voluntary and community sector at £30 (£15), Private and Statutory at £40 (£20). Includes refreshments, lunch (where appropriate) and handouts.

To obtain a booking form please telephone CVSC on 01492 534091 or e-mail mail@cvsc.org.uk

Deaf Awareness Training at Conwy Business Centre, Friday 25 July 2008

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) came into force in 2005 followed by the Disability Equality Duty (DED) in 2006. These laws were set up to ensure that Service Providers and Employers provided equal access to all disabled people.

This one-day course involves learning basic sign language for everyday situations with the signs taught adapted to match your job role. For further information please contact Lyndon Williams, RNID Regional Training Officer via e-mail Lyndon.Williams@rnid.org.uk

To arrange a training session at your own premises please contact Training Services on 0161 276 2312 or training.services@rnid.org.uk

National Basic Skills Project—for groups at risk of social exclusion

Free Basic Skills training and support available. The project team are actively seeking organisations that would like to improve their service by:

- ◆ Recognising basic skills
- ◆ Supporting clients/members with basic skills
- ◆ Signposting clients to learning providers

We can support your organisation by funding accredited basic skills courses. Taking up training in Basic Skills Awareness will help develop your staff and organisation. You will be able to contribute to the Basic Skills National Agenda and help people gain the skills they need to lead productive lives. Organisations that are involved so far, represent people at risk of social exclusion. The risk covers a variety of factors, it covers those living in areas of economic deprivation, living in rural areas, in need of social care, in need of housing. Risk of exclusion from mainstream life affects the elderly, children and young people, minority ethnic groups, lone parents and those with disabilities.

If you represent any of the above groups and are interested in improving your response to clients with basic skills then please contact Sian Hanley on 01492 523845 or e-mail sianhanley@cvsc.org.uk

News from The Network

The Network continues to go from strength to strength and now has in excess of 80 members representing voluntary organisations operating within the County of Conwy. Recent meetings have concentrated on forming a collective Network response to the Consultation papers; Designed to Add Value and the Proposals to change the structure of the NHS in Wales. These can be found on CVSC's website or hard copies are available from Jill Owen on tel. 01492 523841. We have also had presentations around key issues such as safety in the home and long term chronic conditions. We are currently planning a future meetings programme which will include guest speakers from Conwy County Borough Council Cabinet.

The last meeting was held on 9th July. For members who were unable to attend, minutes can be found on CVSC's website. Alternatively, for further information please contact the Health & Social Care Coordinator on tel. 01492 523841. **Please note:** There is no scheduled meeting for the month of August or September.

Future Meeting Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday, 1st October 2008

Tuesday, 11th November 2008

Training



As some of you will be aware, this year the Network has been granted £4967 from the Big Lottery, Awards for All, £400 from CVSC's CFAP Small Grants and £470 from Colwyn Bay Town Council. Some of this will be used to deliver 3 training events designed to build the capacity of local organisations active in the field of health and social care. Our first training day "Negotiating a Service Level Agreement", was held on 18th June at Colwyn Bay Cricket Club. The course led participants through all of the steps to negotiate a service level agreement and demonstrated what the voluntary sector can use as bargaining "chips".

Next Training Date for your Diary



"Partnership Working with the Statutory Sector"

Tuesday 30th September - One day course
Colwyn Bay Cricket Club
Further details available shortly!

Third sector meets with the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

The spring 2008 meeting between the third sector and the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Dr Brian Gibbons AM, took place on 8 May 2008 at the old Assembly building in Cardiff Bay. The sector emphasised the vital importance of involving it in the early development and drafting of Welsh Assembly Government policies and in the related 'policy gateway' process, using the 'integration tool', which together attempt to ensure that all policies take due account of each other and are sustainable. There is currently an evaluation running which should ensure the full integration of the third sector into the formal policy gateway sessions. This will be evaluated and third sector participants will be asked to give their views.

The meeting then welcomed the fact that the Welsh Local Government Association is now echoing the Voluntary Sector Partnership Council in asking for feedback on the relationship between local government and the third sector in each unitary authority area. Once the results of each of these surveys are known, they will be compared by WCVA and WLGA, with the aim of ensuring the propagation of best practice throughout Wales. It was noted that the Voluntary Sector Partnership Council survey now encompasses other statutory partners to the local government/third sector compact, such as Local Health Boards, Health Trusts, police and police authorities. The Minister will raise the issue of WLGA working with the NHS Confederation to ensure there is a view given from that angle as well.

It was then noted that during the afternoon of 8 May there would be a meeting to discuss possible Welsh Assembly Government Social Justice and Local Government departmental actions resulting from the Strategic Action Plan of the Voluntary Sector Scheme, entitled 'the third dimension'. Twenty representatives of the third sector were due to attend and work with civil servants to come up with ideas. Indeed, this meeting did take place and much hard work was done. The output from that is being written up by Welsh Assembly Government and will then be refined in collaboration with WCVA and others.

The next matter at the ministerial meeting concerned adult advocacy. Brian Gibbons recognised this as a developing area and it was agreed to set up a 'task and finish' group, comprised of Welsh Assembly Government and third sector people, to move forward discussions and to look at whether strategic funding might be made available.

The meeting was very constructive and the third sector representatives look forward to the next meeting. In the meantime, Dr Gibbons will be paying a visit to Morfa Hall to meet WCVA staff and tenant organisations, prior to attending a Spatial Plan meeting there in June. WCVA in north Wales looks forward to welcoming him.

Local Compact

The Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee met on the 17th June 2008. Alun Davies - Chief Executive of St David's Hospice was elected Chairman of the Committee for the next twelve months and we wish Alun well in his role. The Joint Liaison Committee is established to ensure that the objectives of the tri-partite Compact between Conwy Local Health Board, Conwy County Borough Council and the Voluntary Sector in Conwy are met and that joint working between the sectors continues to develop.

Organisations are reminded that the Committee is the main consultative forum between the voluntary sector and the statutory sector in Conwy and any issues of concern or otherwise can be raised at the meetings. Therefore, if there are any matters which an organisation or individual wishes to have raised please contact David Scott, Partnership Liaison Officer on 01492 523851 at CVSC.

**Welsh Assembly Government Voluntary Sector Scheme Annual Report 2006—2007
Now available on request from CVSC on 01492 534091**



News from the Centre

VOLUNTEERS WEEK, 2008

Lots of organisations used the week to show appreciation to their volunteers by presenting them with Certificates. Liam Curry, who volunteers at the Welsh Mountain Zoo, was one of them. He's shown in our picture receiving his certificate from Sue Coleman, the Zoo's Education Officer and Volunteer Co-ordinator.



Another volunteer who had a nice surprise was Hazel Roberts, who has been volunteering with Cwmni Penllan Development Trust for 7 years.

In appreciation of her dedication, the group secretly arranged a presentation ceremony and buffet where she was presented with a Certificate by the Mayor of Llanfairfechan Town Council.



Congratulations and grateful thanks to all our volunteers, whether you received a certificate or not. Your dedication and enthusiasm is so appreciated!

GWIRFODDOLWYR Y MILENIWM



Have you young volunteers aged 16-24? Want to be able to accredit their volunteering to improve their C.Vs? Then the Millennium Volunteer scheme is perfect for you. Contact the Centre for details. We can now provide Certificates for 50, 100 and 200 hours of volunteering. So far this year we have awarded 50 hours certificates to 9 young volunteers. So come on, give your young volunteers the recognition they deserve.

Visit

www.volunteering-wales.net

to see all our current volunteer vacancies

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS

AUDIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, GLAN CLWYD HOSPITAL are looking for a Secretary for meetings 3/4 times per year

DYFFRYN CONWY HARD OF HEARING GROUP need a volunteer to act as a meeting co-ordinator, arranging speakers, activities, etc

CONWY & DENBIGHSHIRE MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICE are needing mental health advocates and administrative help based in Denbigh

ST. DAVID'S HOSPICE need volunteers to staff their shops at various locations in the county, undertaking all the roles involved in retailing

RSPB are looking for 'Aren't Birds Brilliant' volunteer assistants to show visitors to Llechwedd Slate Caverns the choughs in the area

COLWYN BAY HOSPITAL are looking for volunteers to meet & greet parents and children attending the Health Visitor Clinic

CONTACT THE ELDERLY are looking for volunteers to help with monthly social groups for elderly socially isolated people

Interested? Ask Alan or Sophia on 01492-871110