

News and information for Wales from:

Wales Council for Voluntary Action
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Last call for *Network Wales* Awards nominations

People who believe a voluntary organisation they admire should receive recognition are being urged to send in their nominations for a Wales-wide awards scheme.

A new category has been introduced for the 2010 *Network Wales* Awards for groups involved in health, social care and wellbeing, aimed at drawing attention to the work carried out in that field by the third sector.

The closing date for nominations for the awards, which are managed by WCVA and supported by Class Telecommunications, is Thursday, 21 October.

WCVA Senior Policy Officer Constance Adams

said: 'WCVA is extremely pleased to introduce the new special category for health, social care and wellbeing, given the huge role the sector plays in delivering services across our communities.'

The categories are:

- Class award for best communications
- Green award
- Health, social care and wellbeing
- Most admired organisation

The deadline for receipt of nominations is 21 October 2010. To receive a nomination form for the *Network Wales* Awards please contact the WCVA Helpdesk on 0800 2888 329 or visit www.wcva.org.uk.

Have your say on the future of Wales

The Welsh Assembly Government has been working on ways to improve the way in which users of its website access information on consultation activity.

Information on ongoing consultations has been made clearer, and people are invited to contact the Welsh Assembly with their opinions on each consultation.

Each item will include a detailed description of what has been proposed, and features an email and postal address, allowing those interested to send their thoughts directly to the Assembly Government.

Users are also able to respond to consultations and offer their opinions, while a countdown displays how many days remain until the consultation deadline is reached. Plans are also in place to create a moderated online forum to allow people to discuss each consultation.

The Assembly Government has also launched an e-newsletter, mailed out to its subscribers, summarizing every consultation and providing links to each one.

To access the new-look consultation information, visit <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/?lang=en>, and to subscribe to the newsletter, visit <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/consultnewsletter?lang=en>.

Autumn dates for Participation Cymru seminar programme announced

Participation Cymru has announced details of its autumn seminar programme.

The programme includes *Tools for planning a successful service-user engagement project*, which will present practical tools and tips for planning and managing your service-user engagement project, and *Productive networks: setting up or refreshing a network*, which will include practical ideas, tips and methods for setting up a new network and for refreshing and re-focussing an existing network.

These practical and participative seminars will

allow participants to meet other practitioners from across Wales and to share experiences, learning and to support each other.

Participants are invited to bring along a project they are working on at the moment, or ideas for future projects, so that they can apply their learning to a practical piece of work.

Places are £50 for WCVA members and £65 for non-members. Further information and booking forms are available from www.participationcymru.org.uk/training/seminars.

Delivering European-funded projects

WCVA's third sector European team (3-SET) is holding an event in November to provide practical support and a networking opportunity to organisations delivering EU-funded projects or contracts.

The event, which is free to attend, is taking place at Cefn Lea Park in Newtown on Wednesday 17 November between 9.30 and 16.30.

WCVA's 3-SET Officer Matthew Brown said: 'We're aiming to give delegates new practical skills that will help them improve how they deliver European-funded activities.

'This will be through expert-led workshops in areas like measuring soft outcomes, organisation

sustainability, managing risk and cross cutting themes.

'We're also going to facilitate an opportunity for delegates to develop new contacts and networks with other deliverers of EU-funded projects to help identify participant referral routes and complementary services.

'It will be a practical and valuable event for any third sector organisation working on European funded projects or contracts.'

For more information and to register a place, contact WCVA's Helpdesk on 0800 2888 329 or email 3SET@wcva.org.uk.



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