News and information for Wales from:
Wales Council for Voluntary Action
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Second chance to become eligible for ILM contracts in East Wales

WCVA's Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) scheme has re-opened its pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) schedule – providing a second opportunity for organisations to become eligible to tender for contracts in the Regional Competitiveness and Employment areas of East Wales.

The scheme, backed by a total of £18m European and Assembly funding, is investing in organisations to provide on-the-job training and support to economically inactive people via a period of supported employment.

In order to be considered for the approved supplier list, organisations will need to complete and submit a pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) by **1pm on Monday 10 May 2010**.

For a PQQ or general information leaflet, contact the WCVA Helpdesk on 0800 2888 329 or email help@wcva.org.uk. The PQQ and guidance document are also available to download from the WCVA website and www.sell2wales.co.uk.

WCVA will be holding PQQ briefing sessions across East Wales in the near future. For more information visit www.wcva.org.uk or contact the WCVA Helpdesk.

Call to reward Wales' outstanding volunteers

WCVA has launched the Wales Volunteer of the Year Awards which this year are supported by CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

Since the awards scheme started in 2004, it has grown over the years and now receives over 200 nominations in five categories, which have been chosen to reflect the range of volunteering opportunities across Wales.

As well as recognition of individuals, young people (under 25 years), and groups, the scheme also rewards 'green' volunteers and trustees. There will be up to three winners in each category, with 15 national winners presented with their awards at a ceremony in Cardiff in June, and all nominees awarded commendation certificates at a local ceremony or by post.

The 2009 winners included a 14-year-old 'eco warrior', a former teacher who works on a voluntary basis more than most people work when they are paid to for the RSPCA and a group of volunteers who support people with visual impairment – despite all being either totally blind or partially sighted themselves.

New supporter for 2010 CCLA exists to help charities make the best of their investments. See www.ccla.co.uk for more information.

Details of the scheme, including nomination forms, will be available in February from the WCVA Helpdesk on 0800 2888 329, or e-mail help@wcva.org.uk. They will also be available to be downloaded from the website www.wcva.org.uk/voty. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 23 April 2010.

Participative business planning for county voluntary councils and third sector membership organisations in Wales

Participation Cymru is working in conjunction with Voluntary Action Cardiff to hold a seminar on Participative Business Planning, which is aimed at County Voluntary Councils and other voluntary member organisations.

The seminar, which takes runs from 2pm until 4pm on 30 March at the Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham, will share Voluntary Action Cardiff's participative business planning model and experiences: what they did, how they did it and what they have learned. A facilitated discussion will follow, exploring and sharing current practice around involving members, identifying learning and good practice.

Following this seminar it is hoped you will be equipped with new ideas and tools which you can use within your organisation so to ensure your business planning is informed by the views and experiences of your members.

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Should you like to book a place at the seminar, please contact Participation Cymru on 01970 631126, email participationcymru@wcva.org.uk or go to www.participationcymru.org.uk/training/seminars. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis and are £5 for WCVA members and £10 for non-WCVA members.

Funding available to create jobs for young people

Funding is still available for third sector organisations to create jobs for 18-24 years olds through the Department for Work and Pensions' Future Jobs Fund.

WCVA made a successful bid to DWP last year for funding for the sector in Wales – and money is still available for organisations to support young people affected by the economic downturn.

The Future Jobs Fund aims to support unemployed young people, and those in unemployment hotspots, by funding the creation of 170,000 new jobs across the UK until April 2011.

Since the launch of the Future Jobs Fund, 4,600 new jobs for young people have been announced across Wales, in a range of areas including environmental work, health and social care, and youth and community work.

The Future Jobs Fund can provide up to £6,500 per new job created. Any third sector organisation interested in using the fund to create jobs for 18-24 year olds should contact the WCVA Helpdesk for more information on 0800 2888 329 or help@wcva.org.uk.

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