



# VANL News

ISSUE 52

SEPTEMBER 2013

## Office

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## VANL Services

Development

Funding

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## **Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire hosts a Voluntary Sector Summit “Surviving and Thriving” on Wednesday 25th September 2013 9 am to 4 pm at Heslam Park Rugby Club, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe, DN16 2AG**

An exciting new event on the Voluntary Sector Calendar, the first Annual Voluntary Sector Summit—“Surviving and Thriving” will be opened by Key Note Speaker, Kevin Curley CBE. A Great opportunity for networking and learning for the local voluntary and community sector, we will explore surviving in the current landscape and ways of thriving in times of austerity.

(More information on page 2)

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Tennyson are [char-ity insurance](#) experts, contact them for advice, for a quote, or to buy great value insurance. As an associate of Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire you can claim a 5% discount by clicking on the link on VANL Website and using the code **VANL**

VANL Summit

**VANL Summit**

Key Note Speakers:

Kevin Curley CBE—

”Surviving and Thriving”

Judy Robinson, Involve Yorkshire and Humber—

”New Face of Volunteering”

John Fox, Age UK—

”Change and Sustainability”

Workshops:

Surviving and Thriving with Kevin Curley CBE

Consortia and Networking with Paula Grant, VANEL

Projects and Volunteers with David Plumtree and Jacky Birkett

Income, Funding and Finances with Rachel Stephens, Big Lottery

Payment by Results—Ramzi Sulliman, NCVO

Social Investment Bonds—Commissioning Better Outcomes\*

Workshops will run in three sessions

£20 per delegate (including lunch and refreshments)

£15 per delegate from an organisation with an annual in-

come below £20k

£15 per delegate for three delegates from the same organisation, £10 per additional delegate.

Please ring VANL (01724

*Another date for your diary is*

**10th October 2013**

**VANL AGM**

To be held at 11 am to 3 pm at Heslam Park, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe, DN16

The theme of our event this year will centre around Disability and Inclusion and will include a presentation by the Mystery Shoppers - “Opening Doors”

We shall, once again be presenting the Ian McPherson Award for outstanding contribution to the community. We hope to see you there,

RSVP 20 Sept 2013

## North Lincolnshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

Is safeguarding children important to you? If so, the LSCB is seeking to recruit a lay representative to sit on the LSCB and make the links between the LSCB and community groups who are involved with children, young people and their families.

The role for a lay member on the LSCB is:

- Supporting stronger public engagement in local child safety issues and contributing to an improved understanding of the LSCB’s child protection work in the wider community
- Challenging the LSCB on the accessibility by the public and children and young people of it’s plans and procedures
- Helping to make links between the LSCB and community groups.

As a community representative you will

need to have strong links with the local community and community groups.

You will need experience of being part of community groups and partnerships.

You must be sensitive and be able to work in partnership with people across statutory and community sector organisations.

You must be able to adhere to a code of conduct and be able to maintain confidentiality and manage sensitive information.

You will be required to hold an up to date enhanced CRB disclosure and be ISA compliant.

Day and rates: Up to 8 days per year.

Daily rate: Expenses will be paid as per the Local Authority Regulations.

If you would like a discussion about the role, please contact Katie Newborn on 01724 298293.

North Lincolnshire Children's Board

### THE IAN MCPHERSON AWARD

#### FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING”

Once again we will be presenting the Ian McPherson Award which has been created in memory of Ian who himself made an outstanding contribution to community, including working tirelessly for VANL and its projects.

It is important for volunteers to have their efforts recognised so this award has been developed to highlight the excellent work, commitment, and dedication of volunteers in our communities. This is a chance for individuals and the organisations they represent to receive recognition for the difference they make to peoples’ lives and to inspire and encourage others to make a contribution to volunteering. We would like your support by inviting you to nominate a member of your organisation who you feel should be recognised for their commitment to volunteering.

Please let us know the name of the person you wish to nominate, your organisations name and a brief statement as to why this person should be considered for the award, and return your nomination marked FAO Liz Crowston at the above address or email to enquiries@vanl.org.uk by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

## The cost of Welfare Reforms and Austerity cuts

I am extremely concerned about the tidal wave of human need set to engulf the voluntary sector, as the sector already struggles to survive the impact of the austerity cuts.

I write as a result of witnessing, hearing and reading the voluntary sector's accounts of the issues; which it seems to me, are either created in part, or at the least complicated by, Government policy.

The issues foremost in my mind are accounts of the impact of welfare changes including the following issues:

- the Universal Job search system and non-compliance sanctions.

Universal job search may be a good idea for many, but it is not an easy system to register on as I know from my own experience trying to register as an employer and accidentally part registering (after about an hour of screaming at the computer) as looking for a job (and I have to say the employer bit took about 2 hours!!!). Imagine trying to tackle this if you have no computer skills, or a learning disability, or an emotional or mental health problem, or issues of literacy, language or access issues, or just low confidence and self esteem?

There is evidence that vulnerable people, and those most excluded from society and services, are giving up and accepting sanctions, potentially leading to poor nutrition, home-

lessness, debt and poor mental and physical health. How does this make sense? Taking aside the human costs, there is a real impact on services (and therefore costs), particularly as the issues snowball.

And this is where the voluntary sector comes in! Where are these people going? They are arriving at the door of the voluntary sector organisations . VANL, MIND, Westcliff Drop-In, The Forge, Crosby Community Association, Humbercare and many others, most of which have been severely affected by cuts, or at the least great uncertainty over their own financial future.

It is with great pride and respect that I report that all of these agencies are doing their best, because they care! Their only reason for existence is to serve the worst off in society: those who struggle with the worst inequalities. However this can not go on, it is unsustainable.

So what is the cost to Society? People with no hope, the worst health, overburdened public services and unfortunately in some cases people with addictions and people turning to crime as a way of keeping themselves and their family, or as a route to prison, where they don't have to worry about bills, a roof over their heads or where their next meal is coming from.

Another minor point for all employers is; if you are fortunate enough to have jobs to offer, you are inundated with applicants, a good number of whom don't have most of the **essential** skills, knowledge and experience required in the person

specification .... Because the rules say that applicants have to apply for a minimum number of jobs! This must be soul-destroying for applicants, and speaking as an employer it certainly is for me!

I now turn to the bedroom tax!

Again there are some theoretical benefits to the policy, as there is a lack of social housing and there is no doubt that there is under-occupancy of housing intended for families. However the reality is for many people is that there is no choice.

I hear from the area's biggest social landlord that there are people who are subject to the bedroom tax who would gladly move to smaller accommodation, but they have no-where to transfer them to! So willing people may be forced into a situation in which they can not pay their rent, forcing them into arrears and therefore debt and possible eviction.

The other issue for me, as a rural resident of North Lincolnshire and ex-family support practitioner in a rural area, is that we as humans are mostly territorial, even in this age of geographical mobility! Many of us live as part of a community and this becomes increasingly important at different times in our life e.g. when we have young families and when we are older. And the bedroom tax arguably will disproportionately affect older people whose families have grown up, who again make up a sizeable proportion of rural communities.

Our rural communities have very little single bedroom property, and it is definitely not a feature of most villages.

So taking aside the deficit in single

bedroom accommodation over the area; are we asking our rural (often more vulnerable) residents to move into the Towns? If so what is the impact on those communities, as the groups of people identified above are often the lifeblood of community action, running village halls, pre-schools, playing field associations, parish councils.

In addition what is the impact on the individuals themselves, being separated by who knows how many miles, from family support and friends and in an area they did not choose or want to live in?

Our homes are far more than bricks and mortar! They are very important to our health and well-being, they are our sanctuary, our roots. They are a place of our memories, our ties! That's not to say we are all tied to the place we live for all of our life but for some people moving is not the right thing to do, despite under occupancy! And therefore it is not cost-effective, even if it is possible!

So to conclude:

I know that funding is an issue; however, how can the creation of such human need really be good financial administration of the Country! And if we as a sector are going to be there to catch people before they spiral into ever-increasing need, or to help to mend lives when they do, we must be financially supported from the public purse. Our services are not cost-neutral, not even volunteer-provided support! We do not exist to make profits, we just need enough to do our job!

***Carole Phillips***  
***Chief Executive***

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# NAVCA

## Introducing NAVCA Essentials

NAVCA Essentials is a new service to help NAVCA members. NAVCA Essentials helps the community groups and charities to save money on their essential services.

Partners have been chosen based on the following criteria:

- 1 They understand the needs and requirements of charities—specifically small organisations and community groups.
- 2 They have a range of appropriate and relevant services, tailored to your organisation.
- 3 Their commercial offering includes competitive pricing.

Following a rigorous tender process four charity-centric organisations have been selected, which can provide a quality advice and support in the following areas, Insurance, Telecommunications, Energy and HR support.

Contact VANL for more information

## Britain's Personal Best: Tapping into the Olympic spirit

The Olympic year 2012 saw an 8% boost in UK volunteering - helping to create thousands of new volunteers. Britain's Personal Best is a national Olympic Legacy initiative funded by the Big Lottery Fund to get people to achieve their very own 'personal best'. This could be for their individual good or for a good cause, culminating in the weekend of 6 October.

NAVCA is a partner along with among others; CSV, NHS Federation, Acevo, vInspired, Groundwork and Institute of Fundraising. We are supporting Britain's Personal Best as a way to foster local voluntary action and help local causes find new supporters. It is a fantastic way to connect individuals who want to get involved in local charities. We hope you will support it too.

Britain's Personal Best has two distinct benefits for local charities:

- To connect you with individuals who want to get involved locally (a recent BPB event in Birmingham run by BVSC elicited 50 new people interested in volunteering locally).
- Access to donations and fund-raisers - we are actively exploring ways to directly benefit organisations that register with BPB through favourable access to donors and will report on progress shortly.

You can get more information at [www.whatsyours.org](http://www.whatsyours.org) or by following [@BritainsPB](https://twitter.com/BritainsPB) on twitter. You can also download an [engagement pack](#). There is also a [promotional video](#) that can be shared.

Britain's Personal Best will be advertised far and wide to attract individuals to pledge their 'personal best' for a good cause. This will culminate in the weekend 6-8 October, though the campaign will continue into the New Year.

We urge you to encourage local charities and community groups to tap into the Olympic spirit and benefit from new supporters and donations by encouraging them to [register](#) (free of charge) on the Britain's Personal Best website.

Best wishes

**Joe Irvin**  
Chief Executive - NAVCA

## **Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council**

*(HWRCC) are looking for dynamic trustees to lead their successful on-going work of in the East Riding of Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire.*

HWRCC is a registered charity, formed in 1975, that is one of 38 Rural Community Councils, nationally supported by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), whose shared aim is to promote, develop and support sustainable rural communities. Together we form the Rural Community Action Network (RCAN).

HWRCC works at a strategic level nationally, regionally and locally, with partners in the statutory and voluntary sectors, tackling a range of rural issues. Projects in the community currently focus on access to

services, rural community buildings, transport, broadband, community development, health and social care, rural energy and renewable energy solutions, training and work on strengthening the voluntary sector in the region.

HWRCC is involved in the development of a wide range of initiatives designed to regenerate and revitalise rural areas and enhance the quality of life for rural communities.

We are seeking trustees with management experience from the voluntary and community, public or private sectors, who have a passion for improving our rural communities.

As a charity that is a Company Limited by Guarantee, our Board of Trustees is responsible for the strategic direction of the charity, its financial sustainability and governance. Trustees are unpaid but expenses will be reimbursed.

If you feel that you have the necessary skills, drive and commitment, we would be delighted to hear from you. You can download the application pack from the HWRCC web site [www.hwrcc.org.uk](http://www.hwrcc.org.uk). Alternatively, please telephone Karen Weeks on 01430 430904 or email [info@hwrcc.org.uk](mailto:info@hwrcc.org.uk) to arrange for a pack to be posted to you.

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 20 September 2013. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 24 September 2013.

*HWRCC is a Registered Charity  
No. 1099439 and Company No.  
4606085*

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## Welcome Vickie!

Good News! Victoria Pickett has joined the Volunteer Centre team as the Volunteer Advisor. She has been working



as a Volunteer Centre volunteer for the past 120 months, but is now our lovely new employee. It just goes to show that volunteering can lead to paid work.

Vickie's job is to match applicants to opportunities advertised through the Volunteer Centre Brokerage Service. She interviews people on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and refers them to organisations that interest them. Occasionally Vickie will contact organisations about an individual who wants to volunteer but can't find a suitable role. Perhaps you could create a new role in these cases?

If your organisation is interested in involving volunteers for the first time, or you need volunteers to undertake new roles within your existing volunteer programme, contact us to find out how. We can help you through the set up stage and hopefully recruit you some great volunteers.

## Supporting Volunteers Award

The Volunteer Centre is offering organisations that involve volunteers the opportunity to gain a quality mark for their volunteering programme.

The Supporting Volunteers Award (SVA) has been developed by Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire's (VANEL) Volunteer Centre in response to feedback from volunteers and volunteering involving organisations.

Organisations and groups in North Lincolnshire are now invited to work towards the SVA at level 1, 2 and 3.

The benefits of holding a quality mark for your volunteer programme include:

- A locally recognised quality award that will help volunteers to identify organisations that provide a great volunteering experience
- A structure around which to develop your volunteer programme and opportunities for continuous improvement
- Valued volunteers
- Shared best practice and peer support

A quality award to include in funding applications

If you would like to find out more about SVA contact the Volunteer Centre on the telephone number or email address below.



## Volunteer Managers Network

The Volunteer Centre re-launched the Volunteer Managers Network in May this year and is facilitating quarterly meetings in various parts of North Lin-

colnshire. The aim of the network is to share best practice in volunteering, discuss common issues and provide peer support. If your organisation involves volunteers, or plans to do so in the future, you are more than welcome to attend these meetings.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 9.30am – 11.30 am at Epworth Old Rectory, 1 Rectory Street, Epworth, DN9 1HX. The theme of the meeting will be 'Volunteering and young people'.

For more information, copies of past minutes and/or to be placed on the mailing list, please contact the Volunteer Centre on the telephone number or email address below.

### Volunteering Opportunities

The Volunteer Centre is regularly on the lookout for new things for people to get involved in. Currently we get lots of requests for admin volunteer placements. Some people have extensive skills, whilst others have few or no skills and want to either improve or learn how to be an administrator. Could you involve a person in your admin team, reception, or office? If so contact the Volunteer Centre.

### CONTACT THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE:

Jacky Birkett, Volunteering Development Manager

Victoria Pickett, Volunteer Advisor

Ring: 01724 845155 / Email: [volunteer.centre@vanl.org.uk](mailto:volunteer.centre@vanl.org.uk)

### Opening Doors

A group of young people have been

mystery shopping local services to evaluate their premises, resources and staff in terms of accessibility through the **Opening Doors** project.

The VANL **Opening Doors** project is funded by NLC Integrated Services for Disabled Children, and aims to make local services more accessible for all.

The group of young people, seen here after receiving their own



**Opening Doors Award** for their contribution to this work, from NLC Leader Cllr. Liz Redfern and Cllr. Rob Waltham, have visited numerous organisations and evaluated them against a set of criteria based on the Equalities Act 2010.

Local organisations achieving their **Opening Doors Bronze Award** include North Lincolnshire Museum; Central Library, Scunthorpe; 20-21 Visual Arts Centre; Waters' Edge, Barton; Providence House, Barton; Civic Centre, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe; and finally, The Pods, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe. A big congratulations to all! To find out more about the **Opening Doors** project, contact Victoria Pickett on 01724 845155 or email her on [victoria.pickett@vanl.org.uk](mailto:victoria.pickett@vanl.org.uk)

# Learning 4 Change

## Let's Get Digital this Get online week!

This year, the seventh annual Get online campaign takes place from 14 - 20 October. The campaign encourages everyone in Britain to get digital for the week.

There are still 7.2 million people in the UK who have never used the internet before, and an estimated 8.5 million who don't have the skills to make the most of online life, and Get online week aims to help them all to get more out of online life.

Thousands of Get online week events will take place across the country during October, where everyone can get a helping hand to get digital - whatever their level of skill and confidence, so if you think you could brush up on your own skills - or if you know of someone else who could do with a helping hand - then Get online week is a great time to start.

The internet can help you and your friends or family to get healthy, get connected or get a bargain, and doing

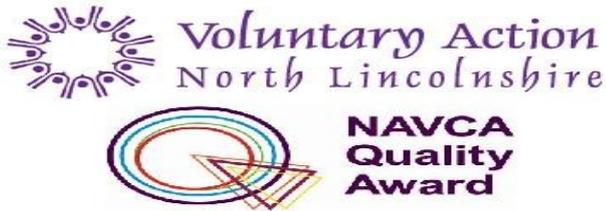
things digitally can make everything quicker and easier.

**Throughout that week we will be holding free Drop In sessions from 10 – 12 noon. You can pop and be supported by an experienced tutor who will get you on line and assess your learning needs.**

If you'd like to know more about the campaign - including how you can find a local event near you, and how you can try out a taster from the comfort of your own home, take a look at [www.getonlineweek.com](http://www.getonlineweek.com)., call in the office or telephone 01724 845155

**IT Sessions** every Tuesday 1 pm to 3 pm at VANL, 4—6 Robert Street, Scunthorpe. All levels catered, please ring to confirm a place—01724 845155.





4—6 Robert Street Phone: 555-555-5555  
Scunthorpe Fax: 555-555-5555  
North Lincolnshire E-mail: someone@example.com  
DN15 6NG

*Advancing Local Voluntary Action*

Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire promote, develop, and support organisations within the voluntary and community sector.

Whether you are an established organisation, you would like to set up your own voluntary group, or you are interested in volunteering, Voluntary Action can provide all the advice and support you require

[www.vanl.org.uk](http://www.vanl.org.uk)

## Welcome to New Members of Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire

**Barton Belles Womens' Institute**

**The Macular Society,**

**Humberside County Bowles Development Association**

**Winterton Senior Citizens Forum**

## The King's Fund

### Funding for health charities—deadline 21.9.13

The 2014 GSK IMPACT Awards which provide funding, free training and national recognition for charities that are working to improve people's health and well being were launched earlier this summer.

Up to 20 awards are available ranging from £3,000 to £40,000 plus access to free training valued at £4,000. The awards are open to registered charities that are at least three years old, working in a health-related field in the UK, with a total annual income between £25,000 and £2 million. The guidelines and online application form are available at [www.kingsfund.org.uk/gkimpactawards](http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/gkimpactawards) where you can also download information on the 2013 award winners and view their films.

### The Warm Home Discount Scheme:

For Winter 2013 to 2014, you could get £135 discount on your electricity bill through the Warm Home Discount Scheme. Not everyone gets the discount, you have to qualify and the money isn't paid to you. It is a one off discount on your electricity bill, usually between October and March. You can also qualify for the discount if you use a pre-pay or pay as you go electricity meter. Your electricity supplier can tell you how you'll get the discount if you're eligible. You qualify for the discount if on the "qualifying day" (which was 20 July 2013) your supplier was part of the scheme, your name (or your partner's) was on the bill and you were either:

- 75 or over and getting The Guarantee Credit element of Pension credit
- Under 75 and only getting The Guarantee Credit element of Pension
- Some suppliers can offer the discount to vulnerable people (eg those on low income)
- Each supplier has their own rules about who else (known as the broader group) can get his help.

Check with your supplier to see if you meet their rules for broader group help and how to apply for it.