



VANL NEWS

Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire
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vinvolvednorth lincolnshire

Well done to Youth Action Team Members Kristian Reed, Aaron Meda and Kieran Pettit for outstanding contribution to their communities through their voluntary work.

Kristian has just received a Runner-Up prize in this year's Young Achievers Awards for all his hard work developing youth-led projects, in particular his commitment to the Japanese Garden project (of which I am sure there will be more to tell in the coming months).

Aaron has just been appointed as the Migrant Outreach Worker for North Lincs. Community Cohesion and integration is a great passion of Aarons and one that he explored through his voluntary work, enabling him to qualify for this important position.

And finally we've just had notice that Kieran has been shortlisted for the Bebo Bigthink competition and will be travelling down to London and no.10 Downing Street to pitch his ideas on how we can tackle issues such as climate change, anti-social behaviour and the lack of opportunities for young people.

It just shows that volunteering can make a difference!



**Merry Christmas to all our readers!
We shall close both the Scunthorpe and the Barton offices at 5 pm on 23rd December 2009 and reopen at 9 am on Monday 4th January 2010**

Charities to lose music royalties exemption

NCVO brands Government's decision 'shameful' after Intellectual Property Office consultation

Charities will have to pay fees for playing music at events or in public places such as charity shops, the Government has decided.

In its response to a consultation carried out by the [Intellectual Property Office](#) on music licensing, the Government said it supported proposals to remove the charity exemptions from paying fees to Phonographic Performance Limited, which represents the interests of music producers and performers.

The current exemption enjoyed by charities will be repealed and organisations will be liable to pay a fixed fee on playing music from April.

A spokesman for the IPO said the figure would be set after consultation between the PPL and the Community Sector Law Monitoring Group, a group of charity sector representatives. The fee was likely to be less than £100 a year, he said.

The plans were criticised by sector umbrella body the [NCVO](#).

"It is shameful that money intended for charitable causes will go on paying royalties for playing music," said Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the NCVO.

"This scheme will make it impossible for small community-based charities or organisations to play music at their social and fundraising events because of the cost involved," he said.

The Government's [response to the consultation](#) said abolishing the exemptions would create a simpler system.

"In our consultation meetings, almost all the representatives of the third sector organisations agreed that it would be preferable to have a simple licensing system, if possible with an affordable, flat fee rather than to have a complex system with limited exemptions," it said.

By Paul Jarvis, Third Sector Online, 12 November 2009

It's OK to rattle tins for charity, says Angela Smith

Third sector minister defends fundraisers amid reports of objections by local councils restricting charity collectors from rattling their tins is "absurd and wrong", according to Angela Smith, Minister for the Third Sector.

Smith's comments came after reports in the [Daily Mail](#) that local authorities had prevented [Royal British Legion](#) poppy appeal collectors from rattling their tins because it infringed rules on harassment. Last Christmas, the [Salvation Army](#) advised its collectors not to shake their tins because it feared it could contravene council laws on street collections.

"Stopping people shaking tins for charities, such as those in aid of the Royal British Legion, is absurd and wrong," she said. "I am determined to send a very strong message - every reasonable charity collector in Britain should be free to rattle their tins. "Volunteer street collectors all work for free, in their local communities, for thousands of charities across the UK. They should be celebrated not condemned." Lindsay Boswell, chief executive of the [Institute of Fundraising](#), said he was delighted Smith had acted "quickly and decisively to bring a healthy dose of common sense to this issue".

He added: "We constantly fail to understand antipathy towards fundraising. Allowing a donor to do something extraordinary and help others through giving is among the most worthwhile forms of volunteering."

Robert Lee, head of media and campaigns at the Royal British Legion, said: "We appreciate the clarification on this question and this clear expression of support from the minister."

By John Plummer, Third Sector Online, 6 November 2009

North Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership

What is the Local Strategic Partnership?

Across the country, Local Strategic Partnerships have been developed to encourage closer relationships between those people who can affect the success of an area.

These partnerships include representatives from the public, private and voluntary and community sectors, such as the Council, Police, Health Service, local business, voluntary and community organisations. In essence, it's a partnership of partnerships.

The idea is that by working more closely together, they might be able to reallocate resources or 'bend' their activities for the greater good of the area.

In North Lincolnshire, the Local Strategic Partnership (or LSP) is currently chaired by the Chief Executive of North Lincolnshire Council. The current Vice Chair is Carole Phillips Chief Executive of Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire. The LSP Executive (which oversees the Development and Performance of LSP activities) has equal representation from the public sector, business and the VCS.

In addition to Carole Phillips the other elected voluntary sector representatives are Ian Reekie (Humber Sports Partnership), Afzal Khan (Crosby Neighbourhood Pathfinder), and Mike Humphries (Carers Support).

In addition to the VCS places above the Rural Partnership representative is also from a voluntary sector organisation and is Penny Brown; Chief Executive of Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council.

What does North Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership (NLSP) do?

The intentions of the LSP are documented in a Sustainable Community Strategy

(normally known as just 'the Community Strategy'). It contains 4 main ambitions and some long-term goals for the area and for the LSP and gives some idea about how it intends to achieve those goals.

The vision set out in the Community Strategy is:

North Lincolnshire is a place where we all:

- live in decent homes and safe neighbourhoods and have choices about our future
- have the chance to learn, develop skills and work in satisfying jobs
- lead healthy lifestyles and make use of a wide range of quality leisure and cultural facilities
- make special efforts to improve conditions for the least well off in our communities and ensure that quality of life improves for everyone over the next 10 years
- take pride in our area, respect our neighbours and protect our natural environment.

The 4 ambitions are:

- An area that is thriving
- Communities that are confident and caring
- Individuals can see the difference
- Everyone works together for the benefit of the area

The Government helps to encourage LSP members to work together by offering extra funding to the area and in return, the LSP has to promise to deliver extra services. This exchange of funding for extra activity is governed by a contract made between the Government and the LSP known as the Local Area Agreement or LAA.

The LAA covers a number of activity blocks based under four major headings of:





Safer and Stronger Communities
Health and Older People
Children and Young People
Economic Development and Enterprise

Each of these blocks is headed by a subsidiary partnership or some other body, working as part of NLSP for the people of North Lincolnshire.

How can other VCS organisations get involved and why should they get involved?

VCS organisations are uniquely placed to provide knowledge, experience and expertise to ensure that the voice and needs of some of the most ‘hard to reach’ individuals is being heard and consequently have a key role to play by influencing the way that the NLSP carries out its activities to account for this. Through such influence NLSP will be better placed to deliver on the vision and shared ambitions contained within the Community Strategy.

VCS organisations can get involved by contacting the VCS representatives on the NLSP executive to raise issues, join the NLSP wider partnership by contacting Matt Cridge or Lisa Driscoll (contacts below), or by getting involved in the soon to be formed third sector forum (for more information contact Carole Phillips).

Contacts: Carole Phillips email:

carole.phillips@vanl.org.uk

tel: 01724 845155

Matt Cridge email:

Matthew.Cridge@northlincs.gov.uk

tel: 01724 296612

Lisa Driscoll email:

Lisa.Driscoll@northlincs.gov.uk

tel: 01724 296048

A message from the Chair and Chief Executive of the Charity Commission to charity trustees and anyone thinking of setting up a new charity

“Perhaps more than any other sector of society, charities can command public trust. Charities are fortunate to be in this position and we, as their regulator, have a responsibility to ensure that this trust is maintained and even, if possible, increased. It is important for civil society that this trust is not taken for granted, but is actively valued, earned and continually renewed.

Charities are more than ‘a good thing’ and, as their supporters recognise, are special. Not all organisations can be charities. To be a charity is a mixture of what you are, what you do and how you do it. The core characteristic is public benefit. Whilst the charitable sector is enormous and very diverse, the aims of each and every charity, whatever their size, must be for public benefit. Public benefit is therefore central to the work of all charities.

In 2006, Parliament passed new legislation for charities which, amongst other provisions, highlighted the requirement for all charities’ aims to be, demonstrably, for the public benefit. Although the term ‘public benefit’ has never been defined as such, it has gathered a particular meaning in law. The Charity Commission is required to prepare, and consult on, guidance on public benefit, to which charity trustees must have regard. Every charity, therefore, has to consider this guidance and respond appropriately in its work and its reporting to the public through the Charity Commission.

The Charity Commission has distilled the key principles of public benefit from the relevant case-law and set them out in this guidance so that trustees can ensure, and report on, their charity’s public benefit. We conducted extensive public consultation to help ensure that the guidance makes this complicated subject as correct and clear as it can be. We are very grateful to everyone who contributed.

There is a kind of covenant that charities have with society: charities bring public benefit and, in their turn, are accorded high levels of trust and confidence and the benefits of charitable status. These mutual benefits are considerable: charities receive significant tax advantages; they can access funds which others – even other voluntary organisations – cannot; volunteers and donors give, respectively, time and money. Society is enriched immeasurably by the activities of charities. Being a charity is not the same as being an organisation that does ‘good things’. Charity has an outward, inclusive nature: it is not inward-looking, for private benefit. Only organisations with aims that are charitable for public benefit are accorded the charity label. This guidance is a green light for charities to continue their innovative and unique role at the heart of our society while ensuring that the public can see what charities are doing under that banner and with their support.”

More News from the Charity Commission....

Assessing public benefit in practice

“Trustees of charities whose financial year started on, or after, 1 April 2008 are now considering how they will report on their public benefit for that year. As well as the overarching public benefit guidance for trustees of all charities, the Charity Commission (CC) has also published supplementary guidance for charities whose purposes include the advancement of religion or education, those set up to relieve poverty and those which charge fees.

There is also a growing online library of illustrative [example Trustee Annual Reports](#) to help trustees in their own reporting.

More recently, CC has published online the results of their assessments of twelve real-life charities in July. Of the twelve charities assessed, eight are clearly meeting the public benefit requirement and four are currently not. All this material is available from the CC website.

Public benefit – the context

Some of the media coverage around these assessments has been somewhat misleading, so we’d like to clarify some of the facts for readers.

The public benefit requirement for charities actually came about by Parliament making a change to charity law through the Charities Act 2006. This change had the effect of requiring every charity to demonstrate that its purposes are for the public benefit. Over many months of debate, Parliament decided that the best way to help charities adapt to this new level playing field was through the independent charity regulator – the Commission.

While much of the recent media coverage has focused on the impact on charitable independent schools, the public benefit requirement actually applies to all charities and, in initial assessments, along with five schools, also included were four religious charities and three charitable care homes.

The key point about the public benefit requirement is that, whilst it is based in charity law, it reflects what the public expect from charities ie that they operate for public good. The primary role of the Charity Commission as a regulator is to maintain public trust and confidence in charity. They have a long history of making decisions independently, transparently and impartially, based on the legal framework within which they are required to operate. Their approach to our public benefit work continues to meet these principles.

Getting charities back on track

While high-profile investigations are most likely to hit the press, the work of the Charity Commission Compliance staff is much wider than just these formal inquiries.



ies. Much of it involves working with trustees to help resolve problems in their charities and get them back to running their services. In October a report into this aspect of work was published, [Charities Back on Track:2008-09](#) (PDF).

As well as identifying key trends in work with charities during the year, the report contains a range of actual case studies along with relevant advice to help trustees avoid similar problems in their own charities. This year, case studies include problems with financial mismanagement, fundraising, safeguarding vulnerable beneficiaries, and the importance of party political neutrality. Trustees may find it useful to see what problems other charities have encountered and steps they can take to minimise such risks themselves. [Charities Back on Track 2008-09](#) (PDF) is available to download from the Charity Commission website or, for hard copies, by calling **Charity Commission Direct** on **0845 300 0218**.”
Charity Commission

Training Opportunities

Girls, Gangs and Peer Relationships (2 day course)

Target Group: Education Staff, Anti Bullying Coordinators, Health, Police, Voluntary Agencies including staff working in community settings. This course is advised for anyone working with Children and Young People.

The repercussions from bullying involving girls can be more destructive and longer lasting than the more obvious bullying behaviours demonstrated by boys. Girls may be involved in subtle and harmful behaviours but resolving the quarrels can be more time consuming and may cause serious emotional harm to the victims.

THIS COURSE COVERS ALL 5 EVERYCHILD MATTERS OUTCOMES

Day One - Understanding the theory and implications of girl's feuds.

Learning Outcomes

- To understand how girls develop friendships
- To understand how girls annoyance with their peers may develop into bullying behaviour
- To understand how gang/clique interaction may develop into bullying
- To develop an awareness of the risks of cyberbullying and use of safety
- To raise awareness of a dominant female (Queen Bee) and her influence in groups
- To consider a range of intervention strategies
- To gain the confidence and skills to facilitate workshops with girls involved in bullying episodes.

Day Two - Workshop to resolve issues and disputes between girl gangs/groups. (Delegates for this workshop must have previously attended day one of the course as the workshop links to issues covered by the training)

A pack of the materials used will be given to delegates to use in their own work.

Dates and Venue

7th and 8th December 2009

Education Development Centre **9.30 – 4.00**

A light lunch will be provided, please request any special dietary requirements on the booking form.

Contact Sarah Scot on 01724 297210 or email, sarah.scot@northlincs.gov.uk for more information.

Volunteer Cooks/Chefs Wanted

at

Westcliff Community Centre

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Evenings and to help develop a Luncheon Club in the New Year. For further details and information please contact Brian on 01724 845936

Alcohol awareness week Westcliff, Scunthorpe 19th -23rd October 2009

North Lincolnshire homes kindly donated us a building (the old barbers shop) in Westcliff precinct. Our priority for the project was to engage with underserved groups and obtain some research into the needs of a particular group of underserved individuals. To facilitate this we agreed to provide a breakfast club which ended up being a bacon butty (the carrot) and to do some research. We were assisted by The local Involvement Network in our methods of research and we decided on **Participatory Appraisal combined with a privileged access approach.**

Participants expressed themselves freely through written and drawn responses on flip charts.

Very broad questions are asked so as not to lead the participants. The question that we asked at the first level was **‘What are the barriers to accessing services? And “How can this be improved?”**

we would like to say “A big thank you to everyone who supported and took part in this project. We were amazed at the response we got from all service providers, we consider this to have been a great inter agency approach to engaging underserved groups ”

Here is a list of all the services that took part in the project
Safer Neighbourhoods, ASBO team, North Lincs Homes, Westcliffe Community Drop In, Westcliff, Residents Association, Acorns, Humberside police and PCSO's, Voluntary Action, Fresh Steps Service User Forum, Who Cares, The PCT, The Junction, Addaction, DIP, Shared Care, The Way 4wd, The health trainers, Desert Rat pub, Andrew and the team from Westcliff pharmacy.

*Stewart Atkinson
User, Carer and Diversity Worker*

The North Lincolnshire Voluntary Sector Support Programme

Introduction

North Lincolnshire Council is delighted to support and nurture the growth of the voluntary sector. We value the contribution that you make to our social, environmental and economic success.

We understand that the recession has had an effect on the viability of voluntary organisations and it is becoming more difficult for you to find funding to meet your central costs and deliver core activities.

To survive this recession you need to have a robust business plan, a marketing strategy and an understanding of where and how to find funding. The chances are you are so deeply involved in delivery that you haven't had the time to stand back and take an objective look at your future.

This is why we have decided to help you by providing a FREE programme of training and mentoring.

We have put together a series of five, six-hour seminars, each focusing on a specific element of voluntary sector management. You will also be offered five hours of mentoring to help you resolve your own specific organisational issues.

We are holding these interactive and informative seminars in accessible local venues. We will provide you with lunch and allow you plenty of time to network with others. We do hope you will join us.

Programme Details

Monday, 14th December 2009
Held at 20:21 - Visual Arts Centre,
Church Square, Scunthorpe 10.00am-
4.00pm
Module One
Introduction and Festive Networking



Learning Outcomes: By the end of this module, candidates will be able to:

- Understand strategic planning documentation; vital for the sustainability of their organisation
- Describe their organisation's vision, goals and outcomes and ensure that they are understood and shared by others
- Assess their organisation's commercial strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

Delegates at this special Season's seminar will be able to network with like-minded people during a festive lunch

**Thursday 7th January, 2010
10.00am-4.00pm
Module Two
Business Planning for Voluntary Organisations**

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this module, candidates will be able to:

Write a robust, clear and concise business plan that will be used to promote their business and attract greater contracting opportunities

- Identify the essential elements of a business plan including market research, forecasting, budgeting and cash flow in order to produce a business plan that is robust and workable, and meets the central aims of those proposing and requesting it
- Understand methods to present a business plan using both a written and verbal format

**Thursday 14th January, 2010
10.00am-4.00pm
Module Three
Marketing for Voluntary Organisations**

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this module, candidates will be able to:

- Understand the importance of marketing within a voluntary partnership
- Identify how to define and target market segments

- Analyse market research materials and create an appropriate marketing mix
- Understand the difference between marketing and publicity

Write a marketing plan for their organisation

**Thursday 21st January, 2010
10.00am-4.00pm
Module Four
Promotions and Media Relations**

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this module, candidates will be able to:

- Identify methods of promotion and advertising including the new range of social marketing techniques
 - Learn how to write concise press releases
 - Learn how to design and develop publicity material
 - Identify what makes good and bad publicity
- Develop media presentation skills

**Thursday 28th January, 2010
10.00am-4.00pm
Module Five
Finding and Accessing Funding**

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module candidates will be able to:

- Understand the key elements of a funding application form and learn how to provide the information that a funder is looking for
 - Prepare successful funding applications to increase their strike rate
 - Understand and calculate the full and exact costs of projects or services (full cost recovery)
 - Understand the full impact of project and service delivery on the shared resources of their partnership
- Calculate the precise level of funding/income that they will require when they are writing bids and tenders.

Contact Helen Anglum, North Lincolnshire Council tel no 01724 297696 for more details.

CALLING Local Sports Clubs – FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

North Lincolnshire Council, in partnership with Humber Sports Partnership and VANL, is delivering a **Supporting Sport Event**. The aim of the event is to provide two FREE workshops that will help you build the capacity of your club and provide practical guidance and support to ensure your club has all the necessary policies and procedures in place to provide a good quality sports provision.

The two courses on offer for FREE are Running Sport Valuing your volunteers and Running Sport Funding for your Club. For your club to be eligible to access these FREE courses you must be a local voluntary sports club that has not achieved your National Governing Bodies Club Mark, be able to send a representative to both workshops, this can be two different people and the club must be willing to work towards **minimum operating standards** for sports clubs. More details about this are included in the booking form.

The sessions will take place on **Tuesday 19th January and Tuesday 23rd February 2010**, both sessions will be run in the evenings, you will be informed of the exact times and venue when you book a place.

TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE by contacting Marie Bailey for a booking form, by telephone on 01724 297270, or email: community.recreation@northlincs.gov.uk

All booking forms must be returned no later than 15th January 2010.

Charity law has changed recently so that the requirements are different depending upon the end date of your reporting period.

Charities with a financial period ending on or before 31st March 2009 with an income greater than £10,000 must submit their Trustees' Annual Report and accounts to the Commission. The accounts should also contain any necessary independent examiner's or auditor's report.

Charities with a financial period ending on or after 1st April 2009 with an income greater than £25,000 must send in their Trustees' Annual Report and accounts to the Commission. The accounts should also contain any necessary independent examiner's or auditor's report.

All charities – even those below the financial thresholds set out above - must prepare accounts and make these available to the Commission on request.

Remember, you can send a copy of your charity's accounts and Trustees' Annual Report using the Charity Commission's secure online service.

When do trustees need to submit their documents?

Annual Returns, SIR's, Trustees' Annual Reports and accounts must be completed and submitted within 10 months of the end of the charity's financial year. Whilst this is the statutory deadline, we encourage charities to file their documents with us as early as possible after the end of the financial year. **Charities with an income of £10,000 or less are encouraged to complete their form and send it to us as early as possible.**

The 10 month period after the end of the financial year always ends on the same date in the relevant month. This means that a charity with a financial year-end of 30th September has until midnight on 30th July in the following year to submit its Annual Return and accounts, not 31st July. If there is no corresponding date in the relevant month, the last day of the month will apply. For example, a charity with a financial year-end of 30th April has until midnight on 28/29th February in the following year to submit its documents.

Where to go for more help? For help and advice on completing the Annual Return/Update form, RSI section or Summary Information Return, please call Charity Commission Direct on 0845 3000 218. Advisers are available to answer your queries between 8am and 8pm, Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays (excluding national holidays).

VANL can offer an independent examinations service at low cost.



Focus on Underserved Groups - Barriers and Enablers

Evidence has shown that the benefits of undertaking volunteering include a growth in personal and social skills, confidence and well being. This is perhaps most evident in those who are in underserved groups in our communities; people with chronic health problems, disabilities, ex offenders and their families for example. Volunteering enables people to develop skills that they may not easily access through formal education or when seeking work. Volunteering also enables people to develop aspiration and to contribute directly to their community.

As a brokerage service the VANL Volunteer Centre (VC) works closely with partnership organisations and volunteers to ensure 'best fit' for both volunteer and organisation. Part of this involves challenging stereotypes and myths held by both organisations and self limiting beliefs of the potential volunteer. These barriers are very much more embedded for those people in underserved communities.

Working closely with individuals and providers is crucial to overcoming these barriers and enabling a successful placement for all. With this in mind we have the following free events;

Volunteer Coordinators Forum

Our next meeting is on 7th December 2009 at 20-21 Arts Centre in Scunthorpe Town Centre. Start time 9.30 till 1 p.m - bring some festive cheer!. From the Integrated Offender Management team will be our guest speaker. If you have not received information please contact us at the office and we will send you information which can also be accessed on www.VANL.org

Training and Networking Day – March 9th 2010

After accessing a small amount of funds

from NAVCA we are pleased to announce a network and training day to be held at the Kingsway Centre march 9th 2010. This will focus on identifying barriers and enablers when working with underserved groups and will include contributions from mental health service and the probation service. A detailed programme will be forwarded in the new year.

Training Needs and Provision

All partner organisations and registered volunteers will have received a training needs assessment asking you to consider what our personal and organisational needs are. We will be using the responses from these to help inform our future training provision so please use it as a point of discussion and send it back to us on penny.oliver@vanl.org.uk.

Our training diary has a new format and new simplified fee structure.

Taster Sessions

There are lots of reasons why volunteers may not become successfully placed with an organisation. One way of further ensuring 'best fit' for a volunteer and organisation is to arrange a taster day for potential volunteers. This allows volunteers to get to know more about the role and the needs of the organisation. The organisation can organise activities for the volunteers to do in conjunction with the VC. As a thank you for this VANL will offer as a thank you a free training voucher to be exchanged for one of our training sessions.

New opportunities

Remember you can view latest opportunities on www.Do-It.org, or just drop in and see us.

North Lincs Council formally adopt volunteer policy

The new Volunteer Engagement policy explains how the recruitment and co-ordination of volunteers will be carried out across the council. Volunteers already play a vital role in many areas of the council and the new policy has been written to provide a framework to ensure consistent treatment of all volunteers.

YOUTH ACTION TEAM

The involved Youth Action Team have been very busy young people recently. They have successfully undertaken two fantastic fund raising projects which have also given each member a huge sense of achievement!



SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE

On Friday 11th September, the day before the Tour of Britain cycle race set off from Central Park, Scunthorpe, Youth Action Team members cycled from York Race Course all the way back to Scunthorpe – 55 miles in total, reversing the first leg of the main race. The group were all novice cyclists but were competently led by volunteer Matt Smith from Safer Neighbourhoods. Ben Nobbs from the Youth Service also kindly helped out on the day by transporting the cycles to York and supporting the Involved team in the minibus along the route, by providing much needed sustenance!

En route a kind couple (below) allowed us to use their loo's and eat lunch on their grass verge – they also donated £20 to the group towards their fund raising effort! The group finally made it back to Scunthorpe Central Park at about 7pm as the light was fading to a hero's welcome on stage at the Friday night celebration



MOUNT SNOWDON, WALES RESIDENTIAL

Later that month the group set off again on a fund raising and team building adventure. Having applied for a Youth Opportunities grant, the members were driven by minibus to Wales by the Involved team to accomplish their next challenge – to climb Mount Snowdon!

We all stayed at the Snowdon Ranger Youth Hostel and killed the time before the Sunday climb by doing some great team building exercises. On Friday night the members were led by David Plumtree through the pitch darkness to the lake, lit only by mobile phone lights! To encourage trust within the team, members paired up and led each other – one with eyes closed, over a series of natural obstacles. Later they played an amazing strategic game called 'Mafia' (from about 8pm



to midnight – it was that good!). On Saturday the group visited the Wales Mountain Zoo and then did a spot of paintballing – even the scardy cat ones (mainly staff) had a brilliant time!

Sunday dawned – quite misty, but the group were up early and ready for action. We were joined by a pair of mountain rangers and set off on the long climb up Mount Snowdon.

It was a long day, but all members of the Youth Action Team achieved what they set out to do, and came back feeling really pleased with themselves! It was a fabulous weekend – the group had fun, they showed other young people that volunteering is much more than you could ever imagine, and they raised money for a worthy cause to boot! Well done to everyone!

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Health and Social Care Priorities Wanted

Who Cares, the health and social care involvement network for North Lincolnshire, is seeking to obtain the views of its members and local people about areas of health and social care service provision that they feel do not meet their expectations in terms of quality, availability and relevance. Who Cares will use this information to decide which issues are of the greatest concern for the residents of North Lincolnshire and prioritise its work activities accordingly. The members of Who Cares will then work to investigate and recommend improvements in the identified areas of concern to the commissioning bodies.

Who Cares is a Local Involvement Network (LINK), its members are volunteers and have certain rights under law to enable them to influence improvements in local Health and social care delivery. It is important that Who Cares takes into account the views of as many of the residents of North Lincolnshire as possible in order to accurately identify the most crucial improvements to make. We are therefore asking you to give us your views on the state of health and social care provision in North Lincolnshire. This could be about recent treatment you or a family member have had, a lack of services locally, a concern about the future planning of services or any other issue. Everything can be completed anonymously so you may raise whatever issue you may have.

You are able to contribute your views in a number of ways. You can visit our website www.who-cares-online.org.uk and follow the link to fill out the Priorities Questionnaire, you can request a questionnaire be sent to you by post which can be returned freepost or you can attend our next Members Forum.

The next Who Cares Members Forum will take place on **Wednesday 16th December, 6pm-8pm** at the **Baptist Church, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe**.

December's event will be the third Forum

we have held this year and the first since the Annual General Meeting. It's your chance to come along and find out about the work we've been doing over the past few months.

As always we will have a guest speaker and we are delighted to welcome Karen Fanthorpe from NHS North Lincolnshire who will be speaking during the first part of the evening.

The second part of the evening will see an update from Who Cares host staff, as well as the lead members for each of the four subgroups. You will be able to find out what each of the subgroups are currently working on, and the success they have had with their various projects so far. One of the main aims for the evening is to refresh the list of health and social care priorities that people feel are issues in North Lincolnshire. We have based all of our projects on the concerns people raised at the start of the year, and we'd now like to update these priorities.

We would be extremely grateful if as many people as possible could fill in the priorities questionnaire to give us a true picture of the issues which are affecting the people of North Lincolnshire.

Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire would like to wish good luck to Greg Gough who has left Who Cares and has taken up a position at North Lincolnshire Council. We congratulate Kristian Reed who has very capably stepped into Greg's shoes to carry all the good work.

Recruitment has begun for the LINK Research and Communications Post.

