

# VANL NEWS

Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire  
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ISSUE 35

June 2008

***“We want you to influence the future of Health and Social Care Involvement in North Lincolnshire”.***

**Local Involvement Network (LINK) for North Lincolnshire  
*Involving people in Health and Social Care***

**Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire is pleased to announce that we have successfully tendered for the contract to act as Host for the LINK.**

**LINK's are about creating 'A stronger and louder voice for people in influencing the design and delivery of health and social care services'**

**They are being established over England from April 08 with the aim of increasing the involvement of communities in shaping the way that health and social care services operate.**

**They are rooted in the new Local Government and Patient and Public Involvement in Health Act, which is legislation setting out the role for Local Authorities as Place Shapers and Community Leaders.**

**LINKs will be independent networks of local people and groups, who will monitor and review services, by:**

- **Providing people's views on services. Voluntary and community groups** know whether services are fit for purpose or whether they can be improved; from a user perspective because they are close to and trusted by beneficiaries.
- **LINKs will also have the power to visit and inspect health and social care premises. They will produce reports of their findings (with the Hosts support) which have to be responded to by providers within a given timeframe.**

Continued.....

**Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire's Annual General Meeting  
Will be held on Thursday 2nd October 2008 at 6 pm venue to be  
confirmed at a later date.**

One of VANL's first jobs as Host is to ensure that as wide a range of individuals and voluntary groups are involved as possible and we will endeavor to achieve this by providing a very broad range of ways that people can get involved. Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) involvement in the LINK is vital if we are to ensure that the LINK successfully represents the views and needs of those most vulnerable in society. The VCS is also in a unique position to make sense of people's views, to understand what might be done to improve services and to make recommendations to the LINK to that effect. So we need the VCS to get involved, either as a Stakeholder or Steering group member and some of the ways you can get involved are listed below:

- By supporting the LINK to work with your existing networks like user and carer groups, patients groups etc.
- By taking part in a focus group/s as necessary on areas of interest or in geographical areas
- By taking part in LINK events
- Accessing the LINK website (when established) and making comments on investigations or consultations
- By sharing your knowledge with the LINK

We want to make involvement as easy as we can for you, as we fully recognise how busy the sector is, so you can dip in and out of involvement as you feel relevant. We are also recruiting LINK Steering Group members and are particularly interested to hear from people who would like to commit themselves to developing the permanent LINK (due to be established in October 08) including working on the policies and procedures, governance structures, engagement strategies and initial work plans for the LINK and we really need Voluntary or Community Group representatives on the Steering Group.

**Interested?** To register an interest in the Stakeholder Forum please email [julie.skelton@vanl.org.uk](mailto:julie.skelton@vanl.org.uk) or for the Steering Group ring Carole Phillips or Greg Gough on 01724 845155 or have a look at the LINK Steering Group Terms of Reference and Role Description on VANL Website [www.vanl.org/LINK](http://www.vanl.org/LINK)

*Carole Phillips*

## **Lloyds TSB Foundation**

The Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales is one of the UK's largest independent grant making trusts. Our mission is to support and work in partnership with recognised charities that help disadvantaged people to play a fuller role in communities across England and Wales.

Regional charities with an income of up to £1 million and national charities with an income of up to £5 million can apply to the trust for their work. The foundation is unique in that it will also support core costs. Grants can be made up for up to 3 years.

The Foundation is known for its local presence, and to enhance this has undergone a restructure. Responsibility for North Lincolnshire now lies with

Gary Beharrell, an experienced grants manager with the Lloyds TSB Foundation, previously have responsibility for the East Midlands. Any potential applicants should in the first instance look through our comprehensive information including criteria and guidelines, available at [www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk](http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk) As a foundation we strongly believe in personal contact with potential applicants and to discuss your proposal or arrange a meeting please contact:

Gary Beharrell | Manager, Lincs and Notts Telephone No 07734973060

[Gary.bharrell@lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk](mailto:Gary.bharrell@lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk)

## THE RURAL COMMUNITIES MONEY PROJECT

June Stevens, Manager Scunthorpe and District Citizens Advice Bureau is pleased to announce a new project, starting this year which will help people with money worries in the rural areas of North Lincolnshire.

The bureau was successful in winning funds from the Big Lottery for a five year project aimed at helping people in the rural areas of North Lincolnshire. The project will help people plan their finances in a more manageable way. The project worker for the Rural Communities Money Project is Jane Jarratt.

The aim of the project is to break the cycle of debt and despair to allow the client to have a more manageable situation which in turn improves health both physical and financial. Clients who live in rural parts of North Lincolnshire who have difficulties accessing mainstream advice services located in Scunthorpe will be able to access advice and support through sessions in a variety of locations.

The sessions will be advertised at local venues and in local newsletters throughout the year—Watch this space!

Other local voluntary and community groups will be able to refer clients to the project and if any organisation would like to offer this facility at their meetings then please do not hesitate to contact Jane at 01724 878015 or email [outreach@scunthorpe.cabnet.org.uk](mailto:outreach@scunthorpe.cabnet.org.uk)

## News from Carers' Support

Hilary Kitchen is the new Volunteer Co-ordinator, providing information, recruiting and training volunteers for the advocacy and befriending services. She says requests for befrienders are coming in thick and fast, and more volunteers will need to be recruited soon. Most volunteers tend to be ex-carers, although this is not a requirement.

The Carers' Support Centre looks after carers—whether they care for an elderly person or a young one—and the service covers all of North Lincolnshire. Carer's meetings are held all over the county, mostly fortnightly, and the Centre can provide a sitter so that the carer can attend the meeting. They work with Fresh Start to enable carers to access Lifelong Learning opportunities.

Befrienders are not intended to replace formal counselling—they are there when the carer needs someone outside the family to talk to. Some just need someone to listen to them occasionally, and help tends to be needed on a short-term basis, just until they get over a sticky patch.

Carers' Week is 9—15 June, and kicks off on 8th June with the Appleby Frodingham Gala, where Carers' Support will have a stand. Other events will take place during the week across the county, including coffee mornings and tea afternoons, with tombolas and cake stalls. The theme of the week is "Carers don't have time to be ill", and professionals such as GPs, Lloyds Pharmacies, etc will be on hand to offer health checks, hand massages, and other benefits along with the cup of tea and a biscuit.

## Crosby Community Association

### Annual Family Fun Day

### Saturday 26th July 2008

### Sheffield Park

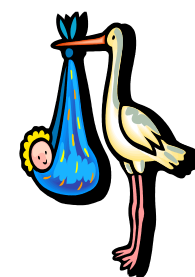
Anyone wishing to

take part or book a stall ,

Contact Ann or Jackie at Crosby Community Association on Scunthorpe 330022



Congratulations to Claire, our Finance Manager who gave birth to a baby girl on 21st April she is called Mathilda and weighed 6lb 12oz



## Commit an ARK!

Churches in the Brigg and Barton Circuit are undertaking ARK (Acts of Random Kindness), and on May 17th there will be a Riverside Clean-Up in Brigg. There are plans for other events throughout the summer, and the whole scheme will finish up with the Hope 08 Nativity—a production similar to a Passion Play—in front of the Angel ` at Brigg in December. The churches are looking for volunteers to take part in the play, including a baby! Anyone willing to join in should contact their local Methodist Church to find out more about rehearsals, how else you can help, and what else is involved. This could be yet another exciting event for tourism and religion in the North Lincolnshire calendar

## Every Child Matters and the Children's Workforce of the Future.

"Anyone who touches the life of a child as a paid professional or as a volunteer is part of the children's workforce. Members of this workforce like and respect children and believe that they deserve the best:----"

The above is an extract from a strategy document called One Team, that I have been working on with colleagues from North Lincolnshire Council, the Primary Care Trust, and Connexions.

It outlines how all agencies engaging with children and young people can work together in partnership to meet the needs of the client group. It also looks at how we measure quality, highlighting the need to have developmental opportunities for paid staff and volunteers. The document mentions having systems in place to check that your service is meeting the needs of children that you work with, and making use of approved quality mark systems.

Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire has received funding from the Children's Workforce development council to work with the private and voluntary sector to provide some training courses around Every Child Matters, and the Common Core skills, so please keep an eye on the training diary at [www.vanl.org](http://www.vanl.org) as opportunities will be advertised on the website.

**Stay Safe.** This is one of the main areas that we will be focussing on this year.

**I am looking for around 10 organisations from the voluntary or private sector to work with, that want to achieve the "Keeping it Safe" Sound systems accreditation quality standard.**

If interested in this, please contact [alicia.laking@vanl.org.uk](mailto:alicia.laking@vanl.org.uk) or telephone us on 01724 845155 and ask for Alicia.

### **Common Core Skills**

Effective communication and engagement  
Child and Young person development  
Supporting Transitions  
Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children  
Multi agency working  
Sharing information  
Training will be available on all of the above over the next 12 months.



## FREE PROMOTION OF YOUR WEBSITE

Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire is to add a new page to our website to promote our members. If your group has a website, please contact us about getting a link to your own site from ours. In return, we would like you to create a link from your website to ours. Carol Thornton, organiser of the VANL Marketing group said, "This facility will only be available to member groups, but of course anyone wanting to add a link who is not currently a member of VANL is very welcome to apply for membership."

VANL has almost 200 members at present, and rising, and this could be a really useful way of networking and directing people to your organisation. Once the new page is up and running, VANL will endeavour to publicise it elsewhere to boost interest.