



£212,000 to help North Lincolnshire's voluntary organisations fight the recession

Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire has now awarded £212,000.00 to help 11 charities and voluntary organisations in North Lincolnshire cope with the extra demand on services being experienced as a result of the recession.

Homestart North Lincolnshire is just one of the organisations to receive some of the funding from the Government's 'Targeted Support Fund' which gives grants from between £10,000 and £40,000 to help organisations deliver vital recession focused services to their communities.

"It will make a really big difference to us," said Faith Woodcock from HomeStart. "Thank you very much."

The other successful applicants in the North Lincolnshire area are:

Active Community Team

Westcliff Neighbourhood Drop in Centre

Carlton Education & Enterprise

The Crosby Community Association

Cloverleaf Academy Ltd

Independent Living North Lincolnshire

Home-Start North Lincolnshire

Academy for Community Training

Relate Lincolnshire

The Foundation for Well-being

Scunthorpe & District CAB

The Targeted Support Fund will enable the organisations to offer extra debt advice or counselling sessions, run job skills training for those recently unemployed, or create extra volunteering opportunities.

Overall the Targeted Support Fund has awarded grants to over 500 organisations up and down the country, providing vital funding to small charities and voluntary organisations. Angela Smith MP, Minister for the Third Sector, said "In North Lincolnshire, local charities and voluntary groups are working hard to help their communities through the recession. I am pleased that these organisations will receive grants up to £40,000 to help them deliver vital support to so many people in the area during the economic downturn".

Alison Seabrooke, Chief Executive of the Community Development Foundation said "The Community Development Foundation is delighted that these organisations are going to receive this essential funding. This will help support people in areas that need it most, when they need it most, so communities can come out of these difficult economic times stronger".

The programme is funded by the Office of The Third Sector in the Cabinet Office and administered by the Community Development Foundation. Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire is one of 53 local funders who will distribute grants directly over the upcoming years, selected because they are familiar with the needs and causes in the area.



"I say that's just not cricket!!"



“As sports go cricket is right up there along side tennis and shooting as sports seen as "elitist" when in fact nothing could be further from the truth.

In the past cricket was played by the upper classes and at public schools and the like, even when I started playing some 29 years ago the first team I played consisted of me, a wide eyed 16 year old and 10 school teachers!!!

However over the past 20 years some huge strides have been taken to ensure that the game is available to anyone who wishes to play, with the introduction of junior cricket right down to under 6 level, girls cricket and disabled cricket.

The ECB has put a great deal of emphasis into grass roots cricket and the channel four coverage of the 2005 Ashes Series v Australia gave the game a huge boost (lets hope that 2009 has the same result)

At My club, Barton Town CC we have teams at age groups Under 9, U11, U13, U15 & U17 over the past 5 years the Lords Taverners have supplied "kit bags" for three of these age groups to help those players who do not have access to their own equipment some of which can be expensive.

We also have four senior sides playing different levels on both Saturdays and Sundays.

The club hosts junior training throughout the summer at the Marsh Lane in Barton ground and also in the winter months at Baysgarth School, all training sessions are carried out by qualified ECB coaches and

all equipment is provided. It also holds senior training through the summer and winter nets from February.

The club offers an open door policy for players and encourages the schools to publicise the training nights and teams that are available.

Barton Town cricket club is a registered charity and therefore is a none profit making organisation with any money made being re-invested back into the club, the biggest issue about cricket is the cost of putting a game on even at junior level with the cost of a new ball being anything up to £20 and the club uses around 40 a year!

However the real cost comes into getting the ground fit to play cricket, some of the equipment can cost up to £15,000 for a second hand mower or a roller, and due to the different parts of a cricket field you need different types of mowers (wicket, square & field mowers) the club has a small team who give up a lot of their spare time to keep the ground in top shape, just ask my wife!

So next time you think "I fancy a game of cricket but don't have the kit or anywhere to play" why not pop down to the ground in Barton and have a look or visit our web site at. www.bartontowncc.co.uk
Happy playing!!"
Alan Sanderson

Congratulations to Stewart Atkinson on the birth of his son Jake in July
Our Deputy Chief Executive, Barbara Diggle on completion of the Lyke Wake Walk in July
Ann Ford, Development Worker, on gaining an Honours degree in Heritage Studies from the University of Lincoln.

Is this the end of the Voluntary and Community Sector Hub?

A Steering Group made up of representatives of a range of VCS organisations including The Samaritans, VANL, Citizens Advice Bureau, Crosby Neighbourhood Pathfinder, South Humberside Racial Equality Council, Independent Living North Lincolnshire, the Christian Bookshop, Bangladeshi Welfare Association, Crosby Community Association, Cruse and Advance Crosby (North Lincolnshire Council) have been working on the development of a VCS Hub for a number of years. The Hub aims to provide an opportunity for VCS organisations to benefit from sharing back of office facilities, experience and skills (reducing our collective overhead costs). And create an ability to raise income from renting rooms etc; enabling the organisations to become more independent and sustainable.

It also aimed to improve services provided for a community which continues to struggle with multi-inequalities, not least by the provision of really good quality space for community activities and access to support and training via the Hub.

The Steering Group commissioned a first stage feasibility for the Hub (see VANL website for full document), which indicated that there is a need for such a development and that the likelihood was that it would achieve its objectives, including improving the sustainability of the VCS. It concluded after a thorough survey of possible sites that the Hub would be best placed in a section of the West Street/Allenby Street car park as it would be highly accessible for the community and it would also lift an area of the Town Centre which can look quite depressed.

The site is in the ownership of the Council, we therefore submitted the Feasibility to the Council for consideration in September 2007.

And unfortunately this is where it remained until relatively recently when NHS North Lincolnshire attracted the potential of a large pot of Department of Health Funding to create a large Integrated Health and Social Care Centre and this site is also their preferred site!

The decision to preserve car parking to serve visitors and staff (complicated by the fact that the Hub had not been able to bid for and secure funding, largely because we did not have a confirmed site) means that there is not enough room for the Hub.

So the Steering Group are faced with making the decision about whether we continue to pursue an alternative site or not. We would be interested in hearing from anyone who would want to be a part of any future development and also any potential private sector partners who might wish to work with the project.

Introducing Independent Examination and ACIE

Most UK charities have a legal duty to have their end of year accounts reviewed by an independent person. If your charity is very small, you may be exempt from this requirement. For other small charities however, you can usually choose to have an Independent Examination (IE) of your end of year accounts, rather than having a full audit. The benefits of this are that, whilst an IE is legally acceptable and, done well, comprises a systematic review of the accounts, it is less work for all concerned and, if a fee is involved, it is likely to be cheaper. Charities eligible for IE are therefore encouraged to take up the option, as it frees up time, energy and money for the primary purposes of the charity. So, which charities are eligible? Over the last two or three years, the relevant criteria has changed several times and in significant ways which can make knowing if your charity is 'in' or 'out' something of a minefield. In very general terms, income needs to be under £500,000; assets should not be sizeable; and there should be no constitutional or funding requirements which specifies an audit.

ACIE is an organisation which supports people who carry out IE and provides information and advice to them and to charities on the subject. There is detailed information on our website or we can provide a free information pack through the post. Membership is open to all. There is an accredited form of membership for practising Examiners, the senior level of which allows such members to work with the larger charities which are eligible for IE.

Contact ACIE, Bentley Resource Centre, High Street, Bentley, Doncaster DN5 0AA, tel no 01302 828338; info@acie.org.uk; www.acie.org.uk

Please note that the address and tel no are likely to change during Sept 09, but there will be a re-direct service on both for at least six months. Email and website will not change.

FUNDRAISING PLUS – is funded by the Big Lottery Fund under its BASIS programme. Humber All Nations Alliance (HANA) holds the grant and leads the Fundraising Plus partnership with Hull Council for Voluntary Services (Hull CVS); Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire (VANL); Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire (VANEL) and East Riding Voluntary Action Services (ERVAS)

The aim of Fundraising Plus is to increase the income generating capacity of voluntary and community organisations in the Humber sub region, in particular the smaller groups that are struggling to engage with the increasingly complex and competitive contracting and procurement environment.

The project will help organisations improve their skills and understanding on such things as fundraising techniques, writing applications, liaising with the business sector and sharing skills.

Fundraising Plus offers one to one assistance including health-checks and funding advice, as well as training and information.

Healthchecks: Each organisation will be offered an analysis of their current funding position, and receive a report outlining a range of funding options.

Development Support: Where necessary organisations may be offered further organisational support to address for improvement to increase their fundraising capacity.

Signposting: Fundraising Plus will signpost organisations to other sources of funding advice and organisational development support, such as community accountancy; IT support; specialised assistance with contracts and tendering etc.

Support may be offered one to one, or through a programme of training on topics relevant to fundraising.

For help or more information, contact Gary Allen at the Scunthorpe Office—01724 845155

Coming Soon – Rural Partnerships Plus

Rural Partnerships plus is a new partnership project between Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council and Voluntary Action North and North East Lincolnshire. The project has been funded

by the Big Lottery BASIS programme for 3-years and will be working in the rural areas of East Riding, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire.

The project aims to work with rural voluntary and community groups to engage them in defining what rural communities need to feed into strategic planning and commissioning structures and hopefully give rural people a louder voice when it comes to resources being allocated and a better deal in service provision.

It will also raise awareness of what rural VCS groups are doing and the contribution they make to communities, helping public sector bodies to recognise the value of rural voluntary action! The project staff will work very closely with the other BASIS funded activities which include the work of Gary Allen on Fundraising plus (see article in this newsletter) and the Money Matters plus which is being delivered by CERT.

Please look out for more information on the project when the Rural Partnerships Development Worker comes into post in early September.

£20,000 for Communities Groups to Develop community led plans

North Lincolnshire Council is inviting community groups to bid for a share of £20,000 to help them develop their own community led plans.

The council has teamed up with the Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council and Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire (VANL). Together they are working to promote the benefits of community groups creating a vision for their community and then an action plan on how to achieve it.

The North Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership, of which the council is a member, has allocated £20,000 for community groups to bid for grants to support them in producing their plans. Over two years, eight community groups will be allocated £2,500 to engage their local community and produce a plan that expresses local people’s priorities for where they live.

Community led planning provides an opportunity to find out what local people would like to see happen in their local area. And it’s also a useful way of informing local service providers what people want. It can cover the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being

of the community and all those who live and work there.

Support on producing a community plan is available from the Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council and Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire to help groups through the process of producing their plans. North Lincolnshire Council also provides support in promoting community plans among local service providers.

From October groups can bid for the community led planning grant. A panel will meet to decide the successful bids in January 2010. Community groups that would like to apply for this grant can contact Lewis Etoria, Community Planning Coordinator for an application form and for advice on the criteria for bids. Phone 01724 296325 or email lewis.etoria@northlincs.gov.uk.

Cllr Steve Swift, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services said:

"Community led planning helps empower people to determine the priorities for the community that they live in and then encourage local service providers to take notice. It means residents work together to decide what's important to them and then produce a plan to try and reach these community aims.

"I would like to encourage community groups who would like to create a plan that states what they want to see happen in their area to submit their bids for this money. We've managed to secure £20,000 for this project and we are keen to hear from interested groups so we can help get their projects off the ground."

Community Builders Fund

The Adventure Capital Fund (ACF) has announced that the format of the £70m Community-builders Fund has been agreed and that it will open on Monday 7 September.

The fund is designed to provide "a mix of loans, grants and mentoring support to a range of community anchor-type organisations across England".

The fund will be split into three investment packages:

* the development package, which will provide bespoke business support and leadership grants of £2,000;

* the feasibility package, which will provide further support of up to five days and up to £20,000 for development of a growth plan, or grants of up to £75,000 and 30 days support for larger projects; and

* the investment packages, which will consist primarily of loans between £50,000 and £2m offered at 5 per cent for an initial three-year period of a ten-year loan term. They will be tailored for investees who wish to "develop, grow and expand their role in the community".

For more information on the scheme and eligibility criteria visit: <http://>

Change of Venue

Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 8th October 2009 at 12 noon to 2 pm at the Kingsway Business Centre, and **not** at the Humberside Chinese Association as previously reported

IT Services

VANL is now able to offer IT services to support Voluntary and Community sector organisations.



These services include:

- Free basic IT advice (such as choosing software and hardware) for VANL members.
- Network setup and installation - we can help you with
- Adding new hardware to your network
- Installing or reconfiguring existing systems
- Designing and implementing your network solution - we can assess your needs and choose the right equipment to match your needs or budget.
- Computer upgrading - we can upgrade your hardware or software, as well as give advice on what you might need and where you can get it.
- Website design - We can help you create a website so that your organisation can reach a wider audience, or we can help you update existing websites.
- If you have any other specific needs, please feel free to contact us and we'll see what we can do to help.

If you would like more information, please contact [Matthew Smith](mailto:Matthew.Smith@vanl.org.uk) at VANL Scunthorpe office and we'll be happy to discuss your requirements and quote a fee where applicable.

Email: matthew.smith@vanl.org.uk

Volunteer Centre Developments

Audit

The VC has recently had an audit to assess the results of the LPSA three year volunteering project that came to a closure in December 2008. The really good news is the local authority has given full backing to the service for the next year which will enable some of our plans to become reality (see later). The service has been successful over the 2.5 year period against all requirements. One reason it has been successful is because of our partners maintaining records and keeping time sheets of volunteer time. A big thankyou again to all partners. The VC is now developing new monitoring and quality criteria and we no longer need you to submit timesheets **Thankyou**. However, it would be useful for you to keep these records for your own organisation.

Quality Assurance

The VC will now begin grappling with the quality assurance/accreditation requirements of Volunteering England. You can view these requirements at www.volunteering.org.uk. As part of a regional consortium of Volunteer Centres we are also involved in the development of a regional approach to usable and useful quality assurance for organisations that use volunteers.

Volunteering and the Recession

Research published by the Institute of Volunteering Research shows 87% of local volunteer centres have seen an increase in enquiries over a 6 month period pre April 2009. A recent survey by CSV (Community Service Volunteers) has shown that 9 out of 10 volunteers said 'volunteering increases job prospects, with 84% saying it increases 'employability'.

Job Centre Plus

The Volunteer Centre won the contract for working with Job Centre in June this year. This means the VC work closely with people who have been unemployed for 6 months or more and choose volunteering to boost their

skills, confidence and opportunities or just to try something new. It has been interesting to see that the 99% of people referred to us have little or no knowledge of the benefits and opportunities available through volunteering so we are now reaching a whole new sector of people who can make a difference to their local community.

The VC is able to support these people by paying initial expenses to attend a volunteer role and we work hard to ensure any volunteer accesses a volunteer role they are really interested in.

Barriers to Volunteering

At a recent Fundraising conference the VC were keen to communicate two important messages.....

Volunteers don't clean toilets!!

i.e volunteers should enhance your service and be a valued member of the team with a clear understanding of their rights and responsibilities. Examples of good practice policy is available from us or from the Volunteering England Site. Get in touch if you would like to develop any part of your service and would like some support.



Volunteering is not free!!

"Reasonable out of pocket expenses should be paid to all volunteers"

Do you agree? Disagree? Vote on the VANL website now - www.vanl.org



Whats On

October 5th the next meeting of the Volunteer Coordinators Forum – this group meets to discuss and develop best practice in volunteering, to share frustrations and celebrations. Look on the VANL website for copies of minutes or information. Details will be circulated and the event is free.

October 26th – regional best practice volunteering event York....further details to follow

Thank you to our own volunteers; Helen, Lyndsey, Amy and Jennifer

Last minute bookings now being taken....

We have a small number of places still left on the **OCN (Level 2) Working with Young Volunteers** course:

Tuesday 29th September – 10am – 1pm (half day)

Tuesday 6th October – 10am – 4.30pm (full day)

Tuesday 13th October – 10am – 1pm (half day)

Contact us now if you want book your **FREE** place. The course will be held at VANL offices, 4-6 Robert Street, Scunthorpe DN15 6NG. The objectives of the course are to enable organisation representatives to increase their skills and knowledge in providing good quality volunteer placements to young people age 16 – 25 years, enable you to successfully support and develop young volunteers, and understand the role of young people's mentor. For more information about the course, please contact Youth Volunteering Development Manager, Jacky Birkett, by telephone or email jacky.birkett@vanl.org.uk, telephone 01724 845155. To book your place, please contact Jan Rilatt, email jan.rilatt@vanl.org.uk.

Volunteer Challenge Programme

We are constantly looking for volunteer challenges to offer to people of all ages. The involved team are working with schools, colleges and other youth groups to give young people the opportunity to do something that benefits others in the community. You can set a challenge under the following themes:

Environment – eg. could be a litter pick,

planting trees or bulbs, saving energy or even recycling

Fundraising – eg. perhaps you need to raise some funds for a specific activity or project – young people could organise a fashion show, bike ride, car boot sale, fun day – let them be creative and get skills at the same time!

Caring – eg. Organise an event for others, a games evening, bingo session, reading to others

Creative – eg. drama, poetry, arts exhibition, photography, film making, journalism, newsletters, web design, music, gigs, singing.

Community – eg. improve a public area such as community buildings/park/play area, organise a village or neighbourhood event, raise awareness of rural issues such as transport or facilities,

Active – eg. organising sporting events, dance sessions, wheelchair pushing, gardening

Awareness Raising – eg. health issues, transition issues such as leaving home, going to university, exam stress, bullying, drugs and alcohol.

Business – eg marketing, research, social enterprise

Leadership – eg. sports coaching, mentoring, developing projects, think tank, sit on a committee.

Global – eg. famine relief, sponsor a child, save endangered animals, create water wells

We have young people just waiting to take up challenges – so get your thinking hats on! For more information and a challenge registration form please contact Jacky Birkett or Ben Hodge on 01724 845155

WHO CARES – The health and social care involvement network for North Lincolnshire

AGM

The first Who Cares Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th September 2009 in the gym hall at the Central Community Centre, Lindum Street, Scunthorpe. The meeting will begin at 6.00 pm and conclude at 8.00 pm, the timetable includes a guest presentation with the AGM proper convening at 7.00 pm. The items to be discussed will include proposed amendments to the constitution and a ballot will be held to elect several members to several vacant positions on the executive group.

The guest presentation will be delivered by Sally Czabaniuk from the Acorns Neighbourhood Management Group who will talk about advocacy services within health and social care. Sally will also consult with the attendees to obtain their views about plans for the delivery of new advocacy services.

Who Cares constitution stipulates that every year a given third of the Who Cares executive group must vacate their positions. The AGM elections will be held to select candidates for these vacant positions. This year there will be six positions available; these positions are open to all Who Cares Members including those that join at the AGM. If you would like to be considered for one of these posts, please contact Julie at Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire. The deadline for the return of nominations is 15th September, after this date nominations may be made at the AGM at any time prior to 7.00 pm. If you would like to know more about the role of the executive group or would like assistance in completing a nomination form, please contact Greg Gough using the contact details below. There is no requirement to be nominated or seconded by another person.

Our Achievements

Who Cares has been very active over the last three months and we are rightly proud of our achievements. We have four sub-groups that meet frequently to discuss and investigate issues that affect the people of North Lincolnshire, each group covers a different area of health and social care and members who are interested in particular issues can join them and drive their activities. The groups are separated into the following areas:

- Mental health
- Social care
- Primary health care
- Secondary and acute health care and patient transport

Each group is investigating separate issues and making strong progress.

In addition to these groups we have a specialist enter and view team. This group has special powers to enter premises where care services are being delivered to gather first hand evidence about the quality and suitability of those services. They have recently completed their first visit which was to review the standards of cleanliness at Scunthorpe General Hospital, the group were very pleased to find every part of the hospital that they visited to be very clean and hygienic.

We intend to recruit more members to this important role very soon.

Our annual report is prepared and has been submitted to the Department of Health, this outlines in greater detail our activities over the past year and copies are available to the public.

If you have any queries about Who Cares or would like to come to any of our meetings please contact the Who Cares coordinator, Greg Gough on 01724 845155 or by email at greg.gough@vanl.org.uk.