

The RBS Community Cash Awards are offering a total of £1 million to disadvantaged young people aged 14 to 25 who want to set up a **project that will improve life in local communities** and transform their area. Projects could range from improving local youth facilities to tackling teenage pregnancy or drug misuse. Individual awards, which will be distributed through The Prince's Trust, will range from £250 to £5,000.

Common Purpose has launched its CHANGE it Awards to encourage or recognise young people aged 11 to 18 **taking action to improve their communities**. The awards are in two parts: performance awards for young people who have taken action on issues they care about, and innovation awards, for young people who want to make positive change happen but need funding to get started. The deadline for nominations is 15 December 2007.

Youth Action Network is inviting nominations for this year's Making' it Real Awards, which reward and recognise groups of **young people who have come together to make a positive difference to their communities**. All winners will receive personalised certificates and trophies and winners of the Young People's Award will get money towards their project. Closing date for entries is Friday 7 December 2007.

We Are What We Do is running a national competition to showcase **young people's social creativity and ability to affect the future**. To enter, young people should submit a simple action that they think can change the world. The closing date for the competition is 19 December 2007. [For more information and competition details contact VANL 01724 845155](#)



## Training Opportunities provided by VANL

- Food Hygiene  
9 January 2008 09.30—16.00  
The Ropewalk, Barton on Humber
- Child Protection—Putting it into Practice  
16 January 2008 14.00—17.00  
The House, Brumby Wood Lane, Scunthorpe
- Introduction to Keeping Financial Records  
22 January 2008 13.00—16.00  
Credit Union, High Street, Scunthorpe
- Safeguarding—Within the Every Child Matters Agenda  
23 January 2008 09.45—13.00  
Kingsway Centre, Scunthorpe
- Level 2 OCN Skills for Working with Young People (followed by 5 sessions Feb 11, 18, 25, Mar 3, and 10)  
The House, Brumby Wood Lane, Scunthorpe
- Support and Supervision for Volunteers  
7 February 2008 09.30—12.30  
Westcliff Community Centre
- Organising Year End Accounts  
26th February 2008 19.00—13.00  
The House, Brumby Wood Lane, Scunthorpe
- Improving your Outcomes within the Every Child Matters Agenda  
5 March 2008 09.30—13.00  
Kingsway Centre, Scunthorpe
- Building Self Confidence and Self Esteem  
10 and 17 March 2008  
Ashby Community Centre Everest Road, Ashby
- For any further information and costs of the courses (where applicable) please contact Julie 01724 845155



ISSUE 33



# VANL NEWS

Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire  
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December 2007

## Development Support to organisations in Scunthorpe

Unfortunately VANL will cease to be funded to deliver more complex advice and support to voluntary and community groups in Scunthorpe from the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007, we therefore very reluctantly have to reduce our services to include less complex advice and support which will be available from VANL along with access to the equipment loan, community accountancy, office services, information services, all our set training programme (but not bespoke packages), anything around volunteer recruitment and management and funding searches.

The support we are unlikely to be able to offer is likely to include **complex on-going** support to set up a new organisation, develop projects, advice and support on Charities/Companies law and other legislation, problem solving, sustainable funding solutions and bespoke training packages.

North Lincolnshire Council - Leisure Services will be providing the more complex support work therefore VANL and officers from North Lincolnshire Council would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss the transition and future arrangements for the provision of support.

The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm in the International Room, Pittwood House (North Lincolnshire Council), Ashby Road, Scunthorpe.**

I do hope you are able to attend, as this is an important opportunity to ensure that the transition is as effective as it can be and that the important work that you are delivering in communities and the projects you are developing are not prejudiced by the change over. However if you are not able to attend will you please let us know what you wish to be considered as part of the transition or any future support.

Again the staff and the VANL Board of Trustees very much regret that we have to make these changes, however the situation is beyond our control, as we are dependent on funding being available to continue to deliver and improve our services for you as many of you are for the work you do. We will of course continue to seek ways of improving this situation and I very much hope you will bear with us until this possible.

*Best wishes, Carole Phillips*



**The Board of Trustees and the Staff of Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire, would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! The Office will closed for business at 12 noon on Thursday 20th December 2007 and re-open on Wednesday 2nd January 2008**



**"Get Your Skates On" - Skate park stays open—thanks to Candis Club's award**

**Awarded to:** Brigg Wheelers

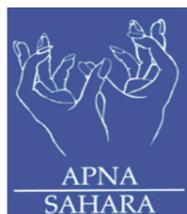
**Paid For:** Running Costs

**Nominated by:** Linda Bradley, Brigg, N Lincs

"If it hadn't been for Candis, our skate park would have been forced to close down," says Brigg Wheelers' treasurer, Andrew Turnbull. "This would have been a great loss to the young people of Brigg and a waste of such a good facility," he added.

It was the young people of Brigg who identified the need for a skate park. Their hard work and enthusiasm led to a committee of parents and young people being set up. It took them three years of hard work and dedication to raise £100,000 to build the park but it still costs a lot of money to keep it running.

"It's a safe place for young people to go to, it's free for them and everyone is welcome, regardless of background, income, skill or ethnicity. But running the park still costs us money and we were running short. Candis' generosity has meant that we can stay open."



### **NOMINATIONS REQUIRED**

Nominations are requested to join the Board of Directors at Apna Sahara Ltd.

If you have a genuine interest in the work of Apna Sahara Ltd and are interesting in joining our Board of Directors please contact the office on 01724 330073.

### **RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING**

Apna Sahara Ltd are holding Religious & Cultural Awareness Training on the:

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

There are limited free places available to those working in the Voluntary Sector, therefore to avoid disappointment please contact Apna Sahara Ltd: 01724 330073. **Please note it is a 'first come, first served basis'.**

### **Information and Advocacy for Over 50's—Befriending for Carers and Ex Carers**

Carers' Support Centre have been offering a range of supportive services to Carers in the North Lincolnshire Area for the past 18 years and continue to provide information and advice, advocacy, a listening ear, life long learning opportunities, a home care and sitter service and carers' support groups.

Carers' Support Centre's new Project (funded by Fresh Start) extends our Information and Advocacy services to everyone over 50 and we have both local and national information on a whole range of subjects that are relevant to the needs of the over 50s. We believe that access to information prepared locally is crucial in maintaining and developing older peoples' confidence and ability to deal with any situation that may arise.

Information and Advocacy Services are available by telephoning 01652 650585. Please get in touch with the Carers' Support Centre if you think that we may be able to help.

We are seeking Volunteer Information Givers and Advocates to support this work and if you would be interested in finding out more, please give me a ring/

A new Volunteer sustained Befriending service for Carers and ex Carers will also be available shortly and we are currently looking for Volunteer Befrienders. We aim to be able to offer Carers and ex Carers the support of a friend—someone to spend time with—just chatting or sharing activities they both enjoy. Befrienders will make visits to Carers and ex Carers at home and/or support them to get out and about in the community. All our Volunteers are fully reimbursed for their expenses including travel costs and child care or sitter costs for their dependents.

Please contact: Jenny Robinson Volunteer Co-ordinator at Carers' Support Centre for more information or to make a referral. Tel Carers' Support Centre on 01652 650585 or email-jennyrobinson@carerssupportcentre.com



### **Cafe at Ashby Clinic and Children's Centre.**

An opportunity will be offered by North Lincolnshire Council shortly. They are looking for a voluntary sector partner or not for profit organisation to work with them to run this facility.

Ashby Clinic and Children's Centre consists of a state of the art medical centre, pharmacy and dentist and a children's centre including a 66 place nursery (full day care), run by the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

The café facility comprises a café area, open in the main entrance atrium and doctor's waiting area, together with a kitchen and servery. There are toilet facilities available for customers.

The centre opened in May 2006. The café originally was operated by a private operator, but this closed in the spring of this year. The Council is now seeking a voluntary sector/not for profit partner to work with them in providing a range of services.

It is intended to offer a three year contract to the successful party.

The Council intend to appoint a cook to oversee the food work across the Children Centre's to ensure consistent quality and operational efficiency across sites and is looking for a voluntary sector partner to provide through creative and flexible delivery:

- Simple good value healthy meals and snack options to users of the facilities, staff etc
- Refreshments and lunches for the servicing of meetings,
- Breakfasts for children attending the breakfast club

To generally contribute to the meeting of the 'Be Healthy' outcome of Every Child Matters and subsequently contribute to the North Lincolnshire Obesity Strategy.

It is important that any prospective partner is aware that user/community participation is a significant component of the Children's Centre ethos. It is expected that a commitment to effective communication and dialogue will be established between all parties involved in the delivery of centre services, to work in partnership to assist the children's centre in meeting the core offer

The service will be commissioned, and occupancy granted in partnership with the council, through an agreed contract.

The Pre-School Learning Alliance is a registered charity and run a 66-place nursery on site. They currently require the provision of approximately 25 hot meals per day.

The council will be offering this opportunity shortly. If you would like an information pack, please register your interest with Sheila Ellis, Asset Management and Culture, North Lincolnshire Council, Hewson House, Station Road, Brigg, N Lincs, DN20 8XY. (01724 296793) or email

[sheila.ellis@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:sheila.ellis@northlincs.gov.uk)

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

The way Health and Social Care services involve local people and users is changing with the development of Local Involvement Networks (LINKs).

These LINKs will replace Patient and Public Involvement forums (PPIs) in April 2008.

We wish to give every one who has an interest in Health and Social Care, the chance to influence how the North Lincolnshire LINK will develop. To begin we need to develop a list of all groups who have an interest in these areas. We then propose to have an event to determine key elements local people would like to see in the LINK and host organisation on the 13<sup>th</sup> December.

We have been set some very demanding timescales in which to have a host organisation in place; therefore we must move quickly to ensure we keep in time with the processes set.

Please ensure you register your interest with VANL ASAP

(Article by Matt Cridge, North Lincolnshire Local Strategic Partnership Manager).

## Training Available for the Children's Workforce

Wednesday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Kingsway Centre from 9.30am - 12.30pm This session will be about Safeguarding, we will be looking at Best Practice in providing "safe provision" for the 0-19 age range.

Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Kingsway Centre from 9.30am -12.30pm This session will focus on how groups can improve on ways of meeting the 5 outcomes of Every Child Matters.

There will be an opportunity to meet with other service providers who can help groups to broaden their provision.

There will be displays of equipment that is available to increase the activities that groups can deliver.

As a result of the training that we have delivered so far, we have been asked to provide training on the Core Skills that the Children's Workforce identify that all of those who work with the children and young people must have.

We are in the process of planning these, and will put dates on the VANL website as soon as they are available.

Anyone who wishes to attend can put an expression of interest in to us at VANL. Also any groups who have training needs around working with Children and Young People can contact me or the Volunteer Bureau, and we will look at how their needs can be met.

There is also a new publication " Keeping Children Safe" that NLC have just printed, it would be useful for groups.

## Community Champions Awards Ceremony— Our local champions

When Judy and I set out for our evening of the Award Ceremony at the Met Hotel, Leeds, we didn't realise how truly lucky we were to have been chosen to be part of such a celebration.

Oh, we'd imagined a nice hotel, a free meal, lots of interesting people to chat with and of course a celebrity speaker, Harry Gration.

What we weren't prepared for was one of the most humbling experiences we'd ever encountered

All the award winners congregated in the dining room at the Hotel for drinks and 'small talk'. We were complete strangers and had a feeling 'small talk' could be quite difficult. It wasn't. In no time at all this had progressed to the comfortable sound of many flowing and animated discussions.

Introductions and explanations came from extremely diverse groups and individuals telling us all about their own aims and strategies for their groups.

Some of the stories were quite heart-warming, some overwhelming, it seemed to me that who ever said, 'that however bad you may feel, there are people in this world who are worse off than you!' Well, they were right!

Throughout the presentation that evening we heard more and more about these people and how they'd overcome adversity and hardship to convince councillors and welfare groups to help them and their communities to overcome terrible difficulties with addictions, violence and abuse. Disabled individuals using a computer to help 'net-work' each other for support. A disabled man who refitted a boat for other disabled people to use. A photographer who highlighted appalling neglect of children. A man who started a consultancy dealing with older peoples issues, another, helping adult dyslexia, an allotment garden scheme that helped a whole neighbourhood, and so many many more.

All these people had something in common. All these people felt compelled to do something to help just as Judy and I had done. To do something that would benefit others. They took on the responsibility to do this without looking for any reward or thanks. They were all incredibly selfless people who didn't think for a minute that their actions would bring them this kind of recognition. But it did, and we were all there to celebrate in their success and achievements and to acknowledge them for all their hard work. A wonderful evening. Sad too as this was to be the last award ceremony. As I looked around at all these 'winners', 'champions' in their home towns and counties, I wondered how many individuals they had also come there to represent. For each of the champions sitting there, there must be many 'armies of 'extraordinary others' (by which I mean volunteers, helpers, friends, carers) that were not counted. They hadn't received an award or a free meal in a posh hotel.

I began to feel guilty that our own friends, helpers, volunteers weren't in that room too, celebrating with us, then I realised that just by the fact that Judy and I were there, meant that they were being represented. The people in that room were not there just to celebrate their own achievements, it was to accept the award of Community Champion on behalf of everyone, volunteers in our groups our friends, the extraordinary others. We accept the award with pride and go home to our communities and our towns and say thank you to them all too for all their hard work, loyalty, support and dedication.

So thank you to all our friends in the Scunthorpe and District Fibromyalgia Support and Social Group. You are all Champions! And to all 'extraordinary others' we are proud to have you in our community.

**Lorraine Seath**

### Watch This Space .....

The North Lincolnshire BME Networking Forum will be re-launched in the new year. If you would like more information or would like to be entered onto the BME data base,

please contact Lotif via email on [lotif@nlbme.org.uk](mailto:lotif@nlbme.org.uk).

Lotif and Abubakr would like to wish seasonal greetings and "Eid Mubarak" (happy Eid) to all readers.





**What is ICAS**  
 ICAS stands for the Independent Complaints Advocacy Service. We

can help if you feel you have not had the service you expect from the National Health Service (NHS) and want to complain. ICAS is:

- Free
- Independent
- Confidential

Meeting your needs and speaking your language:

We can provide information about our service in a number of languages and adapt the way we communicate with you—depending on your needs. For example, we can use Braille, large print or audio formats. Please let us know what your particular needs are and we will do our best to help.

ICAS can:

- Generally support you with NHS complaint
- Provide a self help pack so you can deal with your own complaint
- Put you in touch with other people who can help you
- Involve an interpreter or a translator if you need one
- Meet you in a place where you feel comfortable if you're not able to visit our office or speak on the phone.

ICAS cannot:

- Help you to claim compensation
- Get an NHS employee disciplined
- Give legal advice
- Help you with complaints about private medical treatment.
- Give medical advice
- Investigate complaints

An experienced worker, known as an Advocate, can help and support you to make your

complaint. ICAS Advocates cannot support you with matters outside of the NHS complaints procedure.

ICAS in our region is currently delivered by The Carers Federation. To contact ICAS in the Yorkshire and Humberside region, call: 0845 120 3734 or email [icas@carersfederation.co.uk](mailto:icas@carersfederation.co.uk)

Your one-stop shop for free professional & practical assistance



Congratulations to Lee Olivant the Urban Development Worker and Volunteer Centre Manager, she has at last given birth to her son—Noah, Daniel George. Noah weighed in at 6lb 5oz and was born on Tuesday 6th November 2007

Well done... Lee and John !

**Congratulations to the following groups on their successful applications to the "Community Pot"**

Alkborough Cricket Club £800 to purchase a scarifier.

Clover Leaf Academy Ltd £1000 funding towards literacy/numeracy courses

ST-ART £500 funding towards children's musicals

North Lincs & Humberside Sailing Club—£1000 rescue boat and launch trolley

**Hull & Humber ProHelp**



ProHelp is Business in the Community's national pro bono campaign, a network of over 800 professional firms working together to make a difference in their local community by providing free (pro bono) advice and professional support.

Professionals firms offering support include surveyors, architects, consulting engineers, accountants, solicitors, consultants (management, property & IT), marketing & design agencies. Our aim is to ensure that local community groups can access free professional help and advice with issues that might otherwise hinder their work and projects, such as feasibility studies, structural surveys, marketing & business plans, legal & accountancy advice & property valuations. We focus our support in areas of greatest need.

Any community based, not-for-profit group working locally to improve the social and economic regeneration of the local area can apply for support from ProHelp.

Each ProHelp group is supported by a manager who acts as a 'broker' and matches the needs of the community organisation with the professional firm who has offered their support.

**Hull & Humber Cares**



Could the support of local business strengthen your networks and services? Hull & Humber Cares, an initiative of Busi-

ness in the Community, engages companies in the Humber region to have a positive and lasting impact on the communities around them.

This is promoted through programmes of employee volunteering, where employees give their time and skills either individually or in small teams, in order to support voluntary and community organisations, schools and other groups.

This help could be of a basic practical nature, sharing skills and knowledge, mentoring etc. It may focus on key issues of health and social care, education, community safety or other themes that affect all of us in our daily live.

Most importantly, it would reflect the needs and aspirations of your neighbourhood, identified by local people.

Below are just some of the activities that have been completed by local companies in the last 12 months:-

- Garden Make-over for a local Primary School
- Community Garden re-vamped
- Meeting rooms re-decorated for a Drugs Rehabilitation group
- Christmas party for under-privileged children
- Tree-planting activity with local voluntary groups
- CV up-dates & Mock Interviews with Young Adults
- Reading Volunteers into Primary Schools
- Re-decoration of flat used by young adults with learning difficulties

Trip to The Deep for under-privileged children

**For further information, or an application form for either Cares or ProHelp please contact:**

**Tessa Wray from the Hull & Humber Team at Business in the Community on: Tel: 01482 638610 / e-mail: [hum-ber@bitc.org.uk](mailto:hum-ber@bitc.org.uk) or visit [www.bitc.org.uk/prohelp](http://www.bitc.org.uk/prohelp) [www.bitc.org.uk/cares](http://www.bitc.org.uk/cares)**