

SPEAKOUT 99

SEPTEMBER 2011

NEW ... NEW ... NEW ...

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

We are very pleased to welcome Kristina Jackson who joined us on 1st August 2011.

Kristina previously worked for Age UK in Newham and her first month has been very busy. As well as working with the Board and staff to get TCVS back on track, Kristina has been trying to meet up with as many member organisations and other groups in Thurrock as she can.

Planning days have taken place with staff and the Management Board to decide on a way forward for TCVS. Time was spent looking at our vision, values, strengths, aspirations and objectives and a new strategy and annual plan for 2011/12 is currently being drawn up.

To help clarify TCVS staff roles, the opportunity has also been taken to reorganise and tidy the office.



MEMBERS

We are also very pleased to welcome as members of TCVS:-

Grays Central Community Forum
Stanford Forum
Thurrock Operatic Society (TOPS)
Thurrock U3A

As reported in Speakout 98, newsletters will only be posted to TCVS members that have specifically requested them this way. Speakout will be produced quarterly and now made available via email or the website.

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Please don't forget to send us your articles, news, details of events or any other information and news you would like us to pass on.

You can send them by post by fax on 01375 389886 or email to info@thurrockcvs.org.uk



THURROCK CVS (Council for Voluntary Service)
Voluntary & Community Centre (The Beehive)
West Street, Grays, Essex RM17 6XP

Tel: 01375 389881 Email: info@thurrockcvs.org.uk www.thurrockcvs.org.uk

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TCVS WEBSITE

The Thurrock CVS website is currently being refreshed. The intention is to develop the site into the first port of call for anyone requiring up to date information on the numerous organisations, groups and clubs that operate in Thurrock.

If you have not already been approached to have your information included, and you would like a free page on our website to advertise your activities, please contact us.

A section has been made available for Thurrock groups to have direct access

to our website, which will allow them to get relevant information onto the internet. Groups will then be able to edit their own page in real-time thus allowing them to keep the information up to date.

If you are involved with a voluntary or community group or organisation working in Thurrock and would like to make use of this facility contact Terry Piccolo on 01375 389892 or terry.piccolo@thurrockcvs.org.uk



*Review of
the Charities
Act 2006*

CHARITY COMMISSION GUIDANCE

The Commission has created video tutorials on its website giving smaller charities guidance on filing their annual returns online.

There are videos for charities in three income brackets between £10,000 and £50,000, each of which has different reporting requirements. The Commission is moving this year to system under which all charities required to file an annual return must do so online.

The Commission has also published new guidance on the regulation of exempt and excepted charities. It is expected that the review of the Charities Act 2006

due to start this year will consider the thresholds for excepted charities—which include scout and guide groups, armed forces charitable funds and charities connected with some Christian churches—to register with the regulator. It says excepted charities with annual incomes of less than £100,000 will not have to register until 2012.

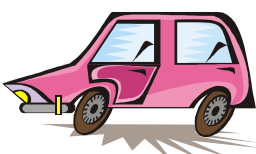
The guidance says exempt charities—such as academy schools and some industrial and provident societies—will have to register with the Commission unless they have a ‘principal regulator’, a government body that oversees their activities.

VOLUNTEER INSURANCE

Motor insurers have pledged not to charge extra premiums for volunteers who want to use their cars to help their local communities. Volunteers currently have to tell insurers about their volunteer driving because some companies do not accept it as “social driving” and charge more.

According to the Association of British Insurers, 54 insurance brands, representing 85% of the Insurance market, have signed up to the commitment.

The commitment will apply to private car insurance policies for policy



SPEAKOUT 99

ESSEX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE—How are we doing?

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service is committed to delivering a quality service at all times and making the county as safe as possible, and would like people to let them know how they are doing.

Help make sure that Essex is kept safe



Please take a few minutes to let them know where the service is succeeding and if you think there are areas which could be improved. It will only take a few minutes. Even if you took part in the last survey it would be appreciated if you could complete this new version so they can see if levels of satisfaction in the service have changed.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/ECFRS_POS

www.essex-fire.gov.uk

FIRE MARSHAL TRAINING



Thurrock CVS is looking to organise fire marshal training for staff and volunteers in voluntary and community groups—if you are interested please let Renae know on 01375 389885

DEMENTIA STRATEGY

Essex has a higher than average ageing population and the number of those living with dementia will increase to 35,000 by 2025. If you would like to take part in the consultation on the Essex, Southend and Thurrock Dementia Strategy visit

www.engageessex.org.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The Act, introduced in 2000, gives everyone the right to request information that is held by public bodies. It has proved tremendously powerful for some organisations and individuals yet a report showed that charities were failing to use it widely or to their advantage.

So NCVO have created 'Voicing your Right to Know: A Guide to Using the Freedom of Information Act in Campaigning' stating that FoI requests can have a "transformative effect" on campaigning.

www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/Your_right_to_know.pdf

PHONE TEXTING HELPLINE

NSPCC now have a mobile phone texting service which allows members of the public to contact the Helpline by texting **88858**. The service can be used to seek advice and assistance and also to report concerns that may need follow up action or investigation. Texts can be sent anonymously if wished and at no cost.

NSPCC can also be contacted by phone on 0808 800 500 email help@nspcc.org.uk and online at www.nspcc.org.uk/



READY FOR CHANGE TOOL

Rocket Science supports organisations and communities across the UK in their drive to improve their own effectiveness and performance. They have developed this free tool which prompts users to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses at a time when many organisations, particularly the smaller ones, are having to adapt to a very challenging environment.

For more information go to www.rocketsciencelab.co.uk

SPEAKOUT 99**FREE TRAINING & EVENTS**

being organised by Thurrock CVS, Children England and Thurrock Council

21st September 2011

9.30am—11.30am at Civic Offices

DOING BUSINESS WITH THE COUNCIL

This short course provides a beginners guide to doing business with Thurrock Council. It will provide an overview of the rules which the Council is obliged to observe when tendering services and the process used to invite and assess applications.

To book a place call 01375 413955 or email community@thurrock.gov.uk

Thurrock Council will also be delivering Child Protection Basic Awareness training on the evening of 22nd September at The Beehive (6.00pm to 9.00pm). If you are interested email community@thurrock.gov.uk

22nd September 2011

1.00pm– 4.00pm at The Beehive

(registration from 12.30pm)

SAFER COMMUNITIES: SAFER CHILDREN

This event will support delegates to:

- Understand the importance of the role the community and voluntary sector has in safeguarding children and young people
- Become familiar with the National Core Safeguarding Standards
- Become familiar with the support tools and resources that are available to the sector to help embed effective safeguarding practices

The standards are primarily aimed at supporting smaller community and grassroots organisations, including faith groups in safeguarding children and young people.

14th October 2011

1.00pm-4.00pm at The Beehive

COLLABORATION AND CONSORTIA

These discussion workshops will look at the opportunities and impact of partnership working across the voluntary and community sector in Thurrock.

The first session will offer groups the opportunity to come together and learn more about the practicalities of working in collaboration, explore consortia models and review where this may be useful for their organisation in the future. It will also signpost organisations to sources of useful advice and case studies of practice.

1.00pm-3.00pm is targeted at smaller groups with no experience of forming consortia

3.00pm-4.00pm is open to larger organisations with experience of collaborating with the local authority

Further sessions will be planned to address the needs identified by the groups and also link in with specific commissioning opportunities where appropriate.

17th October 2011

9.45am—3.30pm at The Beehive

LOVE YOUR TENDER

A highly practical one-day course for those new to the world of commissioning. This interactive workshop is packed with helpful tips, guidance and templates to make sure your organisation is well informed and 'tender ready'. Also includes a free 'Love your Tender' toolkit worth £30.

30th November 2011

9.45am—3.30pm at The Beehive

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

With increasing pressures on public sector budgets and increased competition for grant funding, voluntary sector organisations are being asked more and more to demonstrate the impact and true value of their work in the community. This practical workshop will give you the tools, techniques and know-how needed to understand how best to measure your social impact, prove your worth and communicate this to funders.

To book a place on any of the events taking place at the Beehive contact Sharon on 01375 389881 or sharon@thurrockcvs.org.uk

SPEAKOUT 99**FUNDING NEWS & INFORMATION****SOCIAL ENTERPRISE INVESTMENT FUND (SEIF)**

The TSEIF Capital Growth Fund has now opened. It provides capital grants of £50,000-£150,000 for non-profit organisations providing health, care and well-being services. The Fund is suitable for established organisations (not start ups) who already have well developed capital plans for buildings, equipment, IT or similar, and who can spend the funds by 31 March 2012.

The guidance, application form and cashflow template are available via the website (there is an eligibility checked).

www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/our-funds/seif/seilcapitalgrowthfund/

SPORT FOR YOU

The Royal Bank of Scotland in partnership with the Daily Telephone has launched this small grants programme. Grants of up to £1,000 will be made to voluntary, community and amateur sports clubs in the UK . Five grants will be made per month for the next year. The closing date is 30 November 2011. More details and application forms can be found on the Daily Telegraph website

www.telegraph.co.uk/sport

**THE GROCERS' CHARITY**

This Charity supports a wide range of projects across the UK, with a recent focus being placed on work with young people and people with disabilities. They are also interested in medicine (but not hospices), the arts, heritage, religious causes (but not church fabric projects) and older people.

The Trustees meet four times a year to consider applications and these must be submitted at least a couple of months ahead of each meeting.

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

Grants are available for projects delivered by organisations working with disadvantaged children and young people who are 17 years old and under. Grants are available for up to three years— £10,000 or less from their Small Grants fund and over £10,000 from their Main Grants fund.

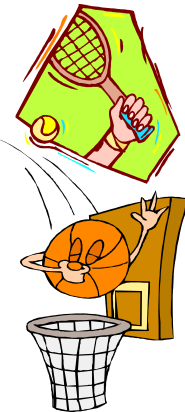
The next deadline for the on-line application process is 15 October 2011. Applicants should be able to clearly demonstrate how their project will change the lives of children for the better. For more details ring the Helpdesk on 020 8576 7788 email pudsey@bbc.co.uk or visit www.bbc.co.uk/

**INSPIRED FACILITIES**

Community and voluntary organisations can apply for grants worth between £20,000 and £50,000 from Sport England for sporting facilities.

The first round of funding runs until 28 September 2011. Designed to be accessible as possible, the fund is ideal for small community groups who might have previously been put off from applying for public money.

<http://nspiredfacilities.sportengland.org/about/what-is-inspired-facilities>



They are willing to support both capital and revenue projects and grants range from between £1000 and £5000.

For more information and an application form contact:

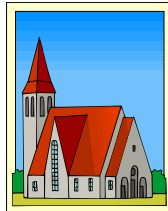
Anne Blanchard, Charity Administrator
The Grocers' Charity
Grocers Hall, Princes Street
London EC2R 8AD
Tel: 020 7606 3113
Email: anne@grocershall.co.uk

SPEAKOUT 99**FUNDING NEWS & INFORMATION****ALLCHURCHES TRUST**

The Trust provides funding in support of churches, church establishments, religious charities, charities preserving UK heritage, theological colleges, schools promoting Christian religion, charities sponsored or recommended by the Church, the local community and those concerned with the welfare of the disadvantaged and disabled.

Applications should be submitted in writing, detailing the objectives of the project, the target appeal, how the funds will be utilised, funds raised to date and any previous support received from the Trust. Additional information may be requested for large applications.

To obtain a copy of the application form telephone 01452 873189 or visit www.allchurches.co.uk/applications/index.aspx

**NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST**

The Trust considers applications from listed and unlisted Christian places of worship throughout the UK. It currently invites applications from the following programmes:-

Repair Grants: there are a number of grants of £10,000 and above towards urgent structural repair projects.

Community Grants: grants can be from £5,000 to £25,000 towards installing facilities such as toilets and catering to benefit your place of worship and local community (heating and lighting projects do not qualify).

Guidance notes and an online enquiry form can be found on the website

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/supporting-you/grants/overview.php

Or for more information email grants@nationalchurchestrust.org or telephone 020 7600 6090.

COMMUNITY ACTION AGAINST CRIME: INNOVATION FUND

This Fund encourages creative new approaches and effective partnerships for tackling crime. Funds are aimed at voluntary and community groups who can work with their community safety partnership to tackle local problems. It is open for applications until 1 December 2011. For more information visit the Community Development Foundation website

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/partnerships/innovation-fund/

THE STRANGWARD TRUST

This Trust supports small local organisations in Eastern England and the East Midlands that work with people who have physical and mental disabilities. Whilst they give grants towards care and treatment they can also fund holidays and outings. For further information telephone 01832 732161 or email

louisedavies@vshlaw.co.uk

**PRINCE'S TRUST**

The Trust's Community Cash Awards help individuals set up projects that will benefit their community. Grants of up to £3,000 are available, with £1,500 given on average. www.princes-trust.org.uk

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SPEAKOUT 99**FUNDING NEWS & INFORMATION****CONCERTINA**

Concertina makes grants to charitable bodies which provide musical entertainment and related activities for the elderly. This not only brightens up their lives but also provides a therapeutic benefit to their health and well-being

Charities are invited to make an application to the trustees and should provide details of their objects, the financial position, the sector of the elderly community which it benefits, amount sought and proposed cultural

activities or related facilities it intends to provide. Trustees review applications 31 January, 30 April, 30 June and 31 October. Applications need to be received in time for the administrator to review them to ensure there are no omissions and they are suitable before submission to the trustees. Contact:

Sally Dyson - Administrator
20 Kent House, Aylesford Street
London SW1V 3QB
Tel: 020 7976 5785
Email: info@concertinamusic.org.uk

**CRASH**

Is an industry charity that is supported by companies and individuals within the construction and property sector. They assist organisations that help homeless people. This can be with refurbishment of buildings and occasionally new build schemes. They offer help to registered charities by providing:

- Professional expertise
- Cash grants
- Sourcing building material free of charge.

For more information and application forms visit
<http://crash.org.uk/apply-for-help> or
telephone 020 8742 0717

**PETER CRUDDAS FOUNDATION**

The Foundation gives priority to programmes designed to help disadvantaged young people to pursue their education (including vocational) and more generally develop their potential whether through sport or recreation, voluntary programmes or otherwise. Preference will be given to the support of projects undertaken by charitable organisations for the benefit of such people, but consideration will also be given in appropriate circumstances to applications for individual support.

www.petercruddasfoundation.org.uk/

THE ALEC DICKSON TRUST

The Trust provides up to £500 to help under 30 year olds run a project in their local area which involves local volunteers.

www.alecdickson.trust.org.uk



MUSIC LICENSING

Community Halls and youth clubs have now been exempted from a proposed tariff by music at parties and social events. Response to recent consultation pointed out that the gatherings in such venues tended to be run on a not-for-profit basis, often by charities.

COMMUNITY TOOLKIT

The toolkit is a free information resource for people who want to be involved in organising smaller, straightforward community activities. Created by Zurich Insurance to address barriers to community volunteering, it provides guidance on some legal, health and safety, insurance and planning issues.

TRUSTEE LEARNING

An e-learning website has been produced by SAVO (Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations) to provide trustees with free easy access to a self paced training system. In addition to the training the website is a useful source of reference information.
<http://trusteelearning/org/>

HEALTH & SAFETY ASSESSMENTS

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has created an on-line risk assessment tool with policy templates for small offices/shops who may have volunteer as well as employees.
www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/write.htm?ebul=hsegen&cr=2/26-apr-1

VOLUNTEERING WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD

Back on Track has published a booklet which shares success stories of ex-offenders getting involved in volunteering, and tips for volunteering with a criminal record. Download a free copy from
www.backontrackmanchester.org.uk/

CHEQUE U-TURN

The Payments Council has now cancelled its target of abolishing cheques in 2018 and said they will be available “for as long as customers need them”.

FREE IT RESOURCES

Third Sector IT provides information and links to free online IT resources that are beneficial to small (and sometimes larger) charities.
<http://thirdsectorit.org/free-resources/>

VAT AND YOUTH CLUBS

HM Revenue and Customs has updated information about which supplies made by youth clubs and associations are exempt from VAT. It has been restructured and rewritten to improve readability.
<http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk>

DEFAULT RETIREMENT AGE

The transitional period for the default retirement age being phased out ends on 30 September 2011. New regulations are available from the legislation.gov.uk website

INTERN OR VOLUNTEER?

“Internships Explained” is a new Volunteering England Information Sheet that clarifies the difference between an internship and volunteering—www.volunteering.org.uk



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