



Spring 2014

Flintshire Local Voluntary Council

Corlan, Unit 3, Mold Business Park, Wrexham Road, Mold CH7 1XP

Tel: 01352 744000 www.flvc.org.uk Email: info@flvc.org.uk

A Message from Ann



It is with great pleasure that I write to introduce myself as the new Chief Officer for Flintshire Local Voluntary Council. Having volunteered with various Flintshire-based groups for over 20 years and having worked in the voluntary sector for fifteen years, I am looking forward to finding out more about meeting the needs of all third sector groups within the county.

Many of you may have met me through my work with the family support charity Home-Start. I have also worked and/or volunteered with organisations such as Arthritis Care, Pre-school Playgroups association, Flintshire Early Years Forum, Barnardo's, Coleg Cambria, Mold Cittaslow and most recently the Friends of Bailey Hill group. Prior to becoming involved in the third sector I had many years experience of working in Business Management, Marketing and IT.

All third sector organisations are operating within an uncertain funding environment and I join Flintshire Local Voluntary Council at a time when many voluntary and community groups have had to adjust to reductions in their income. Despite these challenging times, I am keen to recognise and promote the enthusiasm, creativity and sheer hard work that third sector groups bring to their communities and to seek new opportunities for funding and partnership working.

I look forward to meeting you over the next few months and to inviting you to CORLAN so that we can learn more about your work and to discuss with you how Flintshire Local Voluntary Council can continue to support you and your organisation in the most effective way possible.

Kind regards

Ann Woods

Tel: 01352 744028

Email: ann.woods@flvc.org.uk

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Updates

Get Online Wrexham Flintshire – bringing the internet to you.

The 'Get Online Wrexham Flintshire' project continues to make the internet relevant to local people by helping them to appreciate the positive difference it can make to their everyday lives.

If you're new to computers and the internet, you're invited to come along to our free 'Absolute Beginners' course and gain the skills and confidence needed to explore what the internet has to offer, and decide how you can get the most from it.

Our short courses are led and supported by Digital Champion Volunteers who remember how anxious they were when they first encountered a computer, and endeavour to make learning that much easier by creating a friendly, fun and informal atmosphere.

Alongside our courses, we're fulfilling requests to talk about the internet and its many benefits to a wide variety of groups meeting in venues of all shapes and sizes throughout Flintshire. Where our mobile internet connection allows, we give audiences an opportunity to get online and try the internet for themselves.

For more information about courses, or to invite us to speak at your group meeting, please phone Mel Salisbury on 01352 744026, or email mel.salisbury@flvc.org.uk.

THE THIRD SECTOR DOCTOR

The Third Sector Doctor project is a Lottery funded three year project to extensively support third sector organisations and community groups across Wrexham and Flintshire. The project will provide proactive intensive support and work closely with committee members and management to help them gain the necessary skills needed to improve the health and management of the organisation and services delivered.

The aims of the project are to tackle the problems and issues within the Third Sector and resolve in advance of a crisis situation and to support organisations with crisis interim management support.

The project will work closely with committee members and management to help them gain the necessary skills needed to improve the health and management of the organisation and services delivered. Health checks & training needs analysis will be conducted to identify where specific attention needs to be focused to:

1. Improve income generation
2. Leverage cost savings
3. Promote organisational development.

For further information please contact Victoria Westaway on 01978 312556 or

email victoria.westaway@avow.org

Funding News

The People's Millions 2014 is now open for applications. Up to £50,000 is available for local community based projects.

The People's Millions is a partnership between Big Lottery Fund and ITV where the public helps to decide which local community projects receive lottery money.

The deadline for applications is 16 May 2014.

For more information and to download an application form, please visit - <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/uk-wide/the-peoples-millions>

PEOPLE'S POSTCODE TRUST (Small Grants Programme)

The Small Grants Programme has four funding rounds per year. Applications are accepted via the online application form and you can get more information at www.postcodetrust.org.uk/

LLOYDS BANK FOUNDATION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES LAUNCHES NEW GRANT PROGRAMMES WHICH ARE NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

*Launched on 2nd April 2014, the Foundation's new grant programmes - **INVEST** and **ENABLE** are now open for applications*

The new funding programmes invest in charities supporting people to break out of disadvantage at critical points in their lives, and promote practical approaches to lasting change. Support will be adapted to the needs of small and medium sized charities (income between £25,000 and £1 million) that are committed to delivering work which breaks or prevents cycles of disadvantage.

Flexible and Responsive Grant Making:

INVEST – A flexible, long term core funding programme for organisations delivering clear, targeted outcomes for disadvantaged people (Grants up to £25k per annum and up to six years);

ENABLE – A smaller and shorter grants programme for organisations that have identified clear development needs (Grants up to a total of £15k over two years);

ENHANCE –provides an option of tailored in-kind support to strengthen and develop charities. **If you are successful in applying for an Invest or Enable grant, we will work with you to identify whether support under the Enhance programme is right for you.**

How to apply: Lloyds Bank Foundation operate an online application process and encourage applicants to find further information on our new programmes and strategy at: www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Flintshire Local Voluntary Council. We reserve the right to edit any articles submitted for inclusion.

The Allen Lane Foundation provides grants for voluntary not-for-profit organisations in the UK.

The Foundation wishes to fund work which will make a lasting difference to people's lives rather than simply alleviating the symptoms or current problems, as well as projects that are aimed at reducing isolation, stigma and discrimination and that encourage or enable unpopular groups to share in the life of the whole community.

Grants may be used for start-up, core or project costs and generally range from £500 to £15,000.

The Foundation makes grants to organisations whose work the Trustees believe to be unpopular such as:

Refugees and asylum-seekers;

Black and ethnic minority communities;

Lesbian, gay and bi-sexual groups;

those experiencing mental health problems, violence or abuse;

Offenders and ex-offenders,

Travellers; and

Older people.

Contact: Allen Lane Foundation, 90 The Mount, York, YO24 1AR. Tel: 01904 613 223, email info@allenlane.org.uk, www.allenlane.org.uk

Organising a Voluntary Event: a 'Can Do' Guide

Voluntary and community events are an important aspect of everyday life that help encourage people to play a more active part in society.

It may be to celebrate a particular occasion, raise funds for a good cause or simply bring people in a community closer together. The guide will help you to plan and run successful events with a minimum of red tape. Organising a successful event is really all about good planning and taking sensible precautions where necessary.

A useful guide to organising and running a voluntary and community event is now available on-line at -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/can-do-guide-for-organisers-of-voluntary-events/the-can-do-guide-to-organising-and-running-voluntary-and-community-events>

The guide covers the following –

What do I need to think about when planning an event?

Do I need any licences or other sort of permission?

How do I keep organisers, volunteers and participants safe?

How do I make sure that food and drink is safe?

Can I close a road?

Do I need insurance?

Am I planning an event for which there is specialist guidance elsewhere?

For all your funding queries

Contact June Brady

june.brady@fluc.org.uk 01352 744004

Out and About

Prawf Cymru
Wales Probation



Garden blooms thanks to Wales Probation's Community Payback Team

A community garden where children, vulnerable adults and local people can learn from each other how to grow vegetables and encourage wildlife has been transformed by Wales Probation's Community Payback Team.



The garden and clubhouse are run entirely by volunteers like Angela Bebbington. She said: "Community Payback were lifesavers. I was in dire straits as stone for paths had been donated to us by Hanson's at Padeswood and we had no one to lay it. When I had a call from the Probation Service saying they could help I wept on the phone.

"The estate has high unemployment. Gardening feeds the soul as well as the body and our mission is to support and create opportunities for all people to have access to the garden, regardless of circumstances."

The site was little more than scrubland when the project began in 2008 and since then volunteers have worked hard to create a haven in Park Avenue, Mold. The garden, which has 37 mini plots, is used by local schools, children with special needs, a respite youth club and vulnerable adults.

But the original pathways were in poor condition and the work by offenders mean the garden can now be enjoyed safely by children and wheelchair users.

Angela said: "The majority of the Community Payback team really thought about why they were there and expressed a desire not to get into trouble again. They thought about how they could contribute something to society.

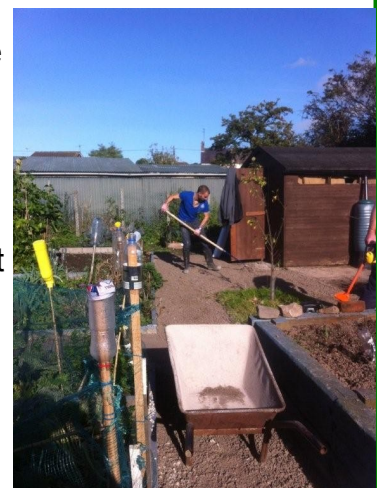
"Some of the youngsters were very surprised that I would work for nothing but this sort of work is me giving something back to my local area, making a difference for my community."

Offenders can be sentenced to take part in unpaid work for up to four days a week involving projects nominated by the public for the benefit of local communities.

It is physically demanding and enables offenders to pay something back for their offending behaviour, whilst learning practical skills and other qualities such as time keeping, team work, and interpersonal skills which improve their employment prospects.

Graham Thomas, Community Payback Development Officer, said: "The Mold Community Garden is an excellent example of partnership working which benefits local people, some of whom are disadvantaged in some way.

"Without the involvement of Wales Probation, it is unlikely that the project would have been as successful as it is. The nature of the project enabled offenders to see the real, tangible benefit of their work thereby developing self-esteem and civic pride. It is particularly gratifying to see that local school children, and others, will use the facility for educational purposes to develop their knowledge and understanding of the environment."



For further information, please contact Margaret O'Reilly, Wales Probation Communications Manager on 07789 864227, 02920 840157 or email:

wls.communications@wales.probation.gsi.gov.uk

Deaf.com reach Final of National Deaf 5 a side Football Competition.

Deaf.com is an after school Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth club based at Mold Alun School and supported by Deaf Access Cymru. They were set up in October 2012 with funding from Gwirvol, Wales Youth strategy Funding and recently Mold Town Council

One of the many activities the youths get involved in is sport and in particular football.. So on Sunday 23rd March 2014 we sent two 5 a side teams to the National ndcs 5 a side competition in Liverpool, which attracted long established deaf teams from all over the UK and Ireland, many supported by professional football clubs

Deaf com 18's male team reached the final at their first attempt of a tournament after some hard matches in the preliminary rounds



Under 16s Team

Back row (L to R) Matthew Wilson, Callum Smith, Emily Jones, Emma Davies
Front row Lewis Cooil

If you are Deaf or hard of hearing and can make the club meetings on a Wednesday 3.45 to 5.45 at Mold Alun School you are most welcome to join us.



Front row (L to R) Dylan Rixon, Sean Hoban

The final with Sunderland Deaf FC was a tense match with Deaf Com getting a tremendous start with a quick two goals only for Sunderland to substitute their goalie and they gained two goals back It then went to 3-3 and then 4-4 with Sunderland scoring the decider in the last minutes of the game

The under 16's played hard but were up against some stiff competition from the likes of Everton, Derby and Bolton Deaf FC.

Given it was their first ever tournament they represented the club well, but were knocked out in the round robin round

The MS Support Centre

How much do you know about
MS, Parkinson's and M.E?

To find out about current therapies and how important exercise is for people with neurological conditions, or to find out about our outreach classes in Mold, Llanrwst and Colwyn Bay, and discover what services we offer for carers, contact us at the MS support Centre.

The MS Support Centre is based at Unit C4, Brymau Estate, 1, River Lane, Saltney, Near Chester CH4 8RG. Please RSVP to claire1.mssc@btinternet.com or call 01244 678619.

The MS Support Centre – supporting people with neurological conditions across Cheshire, North Wales and the Wirral.

The Memory Book Project



After several visits, several games of bingo and the odd cup of tea, students from Hawarden High School have produced books full of life stories and memories. The 'Memory Book Project' has allowed young volunteers from Hawarden High School to befriend residents of a local care home and put their lives on paper.

The project was a huge success. The students were inspired by stories of coach trips to Rhyl, life during the War and romantic dances! The group of year 11 pupils reciprocated with life as a young person in 2014.

When you introduce a 95 year old to a 15 year old, laughter is created. This was a truly fascinating and humbling experience to all involved!

I would like to thank Marley Field House for allowing us to run the project, the students that participated and the residents.

Chris Ablett –
Youth Volunteering
Development Officer



Hawarden Singers Event

Saturday, 17th May, 2014 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Hawarden Singers are to perform a Concert to promote the start of Arthritis Care Week Hosted by Flintshire Branch Arthritis Care.

The Choir will be introduced by our President The Rt.Hon Lord Jones P.C. The Venue is in Rivertown United Reformed Church, Shotton. (Near Wetherspoons & opposite Boots). Tickets are now on sale you can obtain them from Candid Cards Church Street, Flint. 01352 732531 C.Quay Council Offices, Fron Road, 01244 819420 Rivertown Church Coffee mornings, Thursdays 10 – 12.

Tickets can also be purchased at the entrance on the night If you have any queries ring the Branch Secretary on 07779 207314. Please come and support us and enjoy the music.

To include your organisation's events/new/stories in "Voluntary Voice" email info@flvc.org.uk or call 01352 744030

Health & Community

The Flintshire and Wrexham Dignity in Care Champions Network

Dignity in Care is a topic that concerns us all at some level, whether we are patients, service users, a relative of someone receiving a care service, a care provider, or someone who might need services in the future. Awareness of the need to consider dignity as a key part of policy and practice in Wales has been driven nationally through the National Service Framework for Older People, the Strategy for Older People and the work of the Commissioner for Older People.

At a local level, the Dignity in Care agenda is being taken forward by the Flintshire and Wrexham Dignity in Care Champions Network, established in 2011. The network meets quarterly at alternate venues in Wrexham and Flintshire, and free membership is available for anyone who works with, or has contact with vulnerable and older people and who wishes to be actively involved in promoting dignity and challenging indignity, including those who receive services and their carers. There are currently over 80 Dignity in Care Champions registered with the network across Wrexham and Flintshire, representing health services, social services, private sector care providers, voluntary organisations and elected members. Dignity Champions have been raising awareness of Dignity in Care by developing action plans and leading communication with colleagues to improve practice in their own care environments.

The quarterly meetings provide an opportunity for the Champions to share information on dignity training and good practice and to promote learning across sectors and organisations.

As a network we are keen to involve those who receive our services and their carers. If you have a story you would like to share or would like to get involved please get in touch.

For further information on joining the Flintshire and Wrexham Dignity in Care Champions Network, or to suggest a guest speaker, please contact Glenys Hughes-Jones, Flintshire County Council, Telephone 01352 702670, e-mail glenys.hughes-jones@flintshire.gov.uk



The North Wales Community Health Council (CHC) has now started recording Patient Stories. This is an excellent way to capture personal experiences of patients/carers/members of the public when using NHS services in North Wales. If you would like to record your experience the CHC would be delighted to hear from you ~ we want both 'good news' stories as well as 'suggestions where improvements

can be made'.

What are Patient Stories?

A patient's story is simply you telling us your experience in your own words. We would like to hear your story about your experience and the health care you received. The CHC is interested in listening to what it was like for you being a patient, or what it was like for your relatives or carers.

Why do you want to listen to Patient's Stories?

Often, the smallest changes can make the biggest difference. By listening to and recording your story as a patient/carer/member of the public, the CHC can advise the Health Board on what you have said and in turn lessons can be learnt.

For further details please contact:

Ffôn | Tel: 01248 679 284

Ebost | Email: admin@bcchc.org.uk

Mrs Chris Jones
Deputy Chief Officer
North Wales CHC
11 Chestnut Court
Ffordd y Parc
Parc Menai
Bangor
Gwynedd, LL57 4FH

Flintshire Wellbeing Network

The Spring Flintshire Wellbeing Network Meeting took place at the end of March. Presentations were received from both Flintshire County Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

Karen Chambers (FCC Wellbeing and Partnerships lead) provided information to give a sense of the strategic landscape in Flintshire and provided details of some significant developments such as the single point of access (SPOA) and the Intermediate Care Fund.

Eleri Lloyd Burns (BCUHB Partnerships Manager) gave an overview of current commissioning plans for the third sector across North Wales.

Copies of both presentations are available from kate.newman@flvc.org.uk

Single Point of Access (SPOA) update

Lynze Rogers (Transforming Access Development Officer)

SPoA aims to be a streamlined way for adults and professionals across North Wales to gain direct access to advice, assessment and co-ordinated health and social care services, via one phone number.

Things are moving on regards the Single Point of Access across the North East to gain direct access to advice, assessment, and co-ordinated community Health and Social Care services, by contacting one central, integrated team and phone number. These changes are being made as a demand for services are at an all time high and change is needed to help support and enable local people to remain independent as possible. Integrating services will reduce unnecessary duplication and make public services as efficient and effective as possible. This service brings together Health & Social Care services, Third Sector and Independent care sector.

As Transforming Access Development Officer, I have been working closely with the project managers in the development of the SPoA's across the Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire counties. I have been attending the relevant workstream meetings representing the third sector as an important piece of the SPoA programme. Our SPoA administrator, Karen Peters and I have organised information through mapping of third sector organisations to help support the development of a SPoA. I have supported facilitation of a stakeholder workshop in Flintshire with Flintshire Project Manager Carol Dove. This leads on to the Flintshire/Wrexham 3rd Sector awareness raising workshop which organisations will be invited to after our initial planning meeting on the 20th May.

A key piece of work I am currently undertaking is to develop a learning programme for SPOA staff about the role of the third sector and service provision in relation to Health and Social Care. The programme will also be suitable to roll out to other health and social care staff through locality teams in the future.

It's an exciting role and I look forward to taking it further with the development of the Single Point's of Access across the three counties. If you would like to discuss the project in further details then please feel free to contact me Lynze.rogers@flvc.co.uk or phone me on 01352 744020.



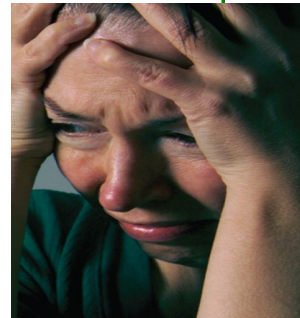
NWREN

North Wales Regional Equality Network
Rhwydwaith Cŵdraddoldeb Rhanbarthol Gogledd Cymru



Understanding Inequalities

'Equality is about ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents, and believing that no one should have poorer life chances because of where, what or whom they were born, what they believe, or whether they have a disability. Equality recognises that historically, certain groups of people with particular characteristics e.g. race, disability, sex and sexuality, have experienced discrimination' (EHRC)



For the last 15 years what was North Wales Race Equality Network and is now North Wales **Regional** Equality Network (NWREN) has worked towards eliminating discrimination, and advancing a more equal and less marginalised society.

With the changes brought in under the new Equality Act Law, equality has taken on a broader meaning. No single organisation can hope to have enough in depth knowledge and experience to do justice to all of the nine equality strands (protected characteristics).

NWREN cannot fight or support this range of equalities on its own. An amazing depth of specialism and expertise already exists within the voluntary sector and so much more can be achieved by working together with partners. The added value that partners bring could never be achieved by one organisation operating in isolation.

The BIG Lottery is funding a 'People and Places' multi strand project. This funding allows NWREN to make their offices more accessible; employ outreach workers who can offer support to marginalised individuals; employ Hate Crime officers to support victims of Hate Crime and to develop a voluntary sector Partnership forum across the North Wales region.

Susan Jones has recently taken up the post of Partnership Development Coordinator and will, be contacting as many organisations as possible across the third sector. All areas of expertise are needed in a joined up effort to tackle inequalities.

NWREN is just one cog in the wheel and it would be greatly appreciated if you could express your interest in the development of a **Forum** by contacting Susan Jones by e-mail: susan@nwren.org or by telephone 01492 621468; Mobile 07825440781.

It is envisaged that this Project will give strength to the voices of not only the organisations in the third sector in North Wales, but more importantly to the actual people whose 'voices' are marginalised.

Please support this important initiative.

The Equality Centre Bangor Road Penmaenmawr Conwy LL34 6LF

Y Ganolfan Cŵdraddoldeb Ffordd Bangor Penmaenmawr Conwy LL34 6LF

Tel/Ffôn: 01492 622233 / 621468

info@nwren.org - www.nwren.org.uk

Company N./Rhif Cwmni: 5843319 Charity Registration No./ Rhif Cofrestrriad Elusen: 1116970



Shaun's News and Musings

Happy New Tax Year!



Most employees will be enjoying their extra pay from the increase in Personal Tax Allowance which is worth approximately £112 per year to those earning £10,000 and above. If in multiple employments check that your tax codes now add up to 1000 (and 944 last year), if not, you maybe due a rebate.

Employers should also, where they pay staff over the National Insurance Earnings threshold, have the benefit of year Employment Allowance of up to £2,000 which in most cases will be processed automatically as part of the payroll process. If applicable please make sure procedures are in place to claim in your next payment to HMRC due by 19th May.

Maternity and paternity rates up to **£138.18 a week (currently £136.78)**.

The National Minimum Wage rates are also going up from 1 October 2014:

- a 19p (3%) increase in the adult rate (from £6.31 to £6.50 per hour)
- a 10p (2%) increase in the rate for 18 to 20 year olds (from £5.03 to £5.13 per hour)
- a 7p (2%) increase in the rate for 16 to 17 year olds (from £3.72 to £3.79 per hour)
- a 5p (2%) increase in the rate for apprentices (from £2.68 to £2.73 per hour)

Summertime Blues



Unfortunately there are employers who cannot claim the Employment Allowance for example if you:

- employ someone for personal, household or domestic work, such as a nanny, au pair, chauffeur, gardener, care support worker – this may seem very harsh for those making Direct Payments!!
- carry out functions either wholly or mainly of a public nature (unless you have charitable status) for example GP Services

This is compounded by the abolishment of the Percentage Threshold Scheme which means that although the employee rules are broadly similar with an increase to Statutory Sick Pay up to **£87.55** per week the Employer can no longer reclaim/recover a percentage of the SSP as in prior years. Given that SSP is payable up to 28 weeks the 'loss' is potentially **£2,451** per employee.

The 'savings' are to be spent on forming the Health and Work Service (HWS) which aims to provide independent expert health and work advice including occupational health assessments, which HMRC says will be of benefit to employers who currently have no or only limited in-house occupational health services. Although originally scheduled for April roll out this has been delayed to later in the year.

And ONE NOT to CELEBRATE ... Statutory Redundancy Pay up from £450 to £464 per week.



Samba Time - World Cup football



If you are wondering why your fete and festival numbers are down ... just check the TV schedules for the World cup which starts on the 12th June. To July 13th . My predictions are for a team that can cope with WEATHER THAT IS A BIT HOTTER THAN THE UK! ... SO maybe not ROONEY ... but that little magician Messi OR maybe a winner's medal rather than runner's up for the local Uruguayan goal machine Suarez.

And Finally ...

THE PRINT ROOM

GET READY FOR
SUMMER!



We're keeping our fingers crossed for a smashing summer for all the events you have planned over the coming months. We'd love to help you promote your event with our eye-catching flyers, banners and posters. We can help ease your workload with both the design and printing of your publicity material and suggest ways of getting your message across to fit within the tightest of budgets.

Please feel free to call in person for a chat to us here at Corlan, or just give us a call to start the ball rolling. Don't struggle on your own - help is at hand!

For more info or to discuss your requirements please contact **Irene** or **Rachael** on 01352 744031 or email at irene.langford@flvc.org.uk.



Due to recent and upcoming changes within the staff structure please be aware that there will be no newsletter published in July 2014

The next issue will be published at the end of Autumn 2014

If you have any information that you would like us to circulate in the mean time please email the relevant information to us at info@flvc.org.uk and we will circulate it via our network. **(No attachments please)**



Deadline for copy for next newsletter is **Friday, 12th September 2014**. For further information on Voluntary Voice, or for inclusion of any articles, contact **01352 744030** or Email info@flvc.org.uk Voluntary Voice is available on our website www.flvc.org.uk

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