

Voluntary Voice Newsletter

Issue 1 2018
www.flvc.org.uk



Members of the National Autistic Society, workers and volunteers from the voluntary sector bake and sell cakes to raise the awareness of autism during Autism Awareness Week. For more information about the National Autistic Society, call Maria Cross, team leader on 01352744056.

*Supporting,
Promoting and
Developing Voluntary &
Community Action*



Cefnogi Trydydd
Sector **Cymru**
Third Sector
Support Wales

FLVC
Flintshire Local Voluntary Council
Cyngor Gwirfoddol Lleol Sir y Fflint

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*You can be part of
this newsletter too!*

If you would like to include an article in the next edition of Voluntary Voice then please forward your article to:

Jane Hewson,

Communications Officer, Mold Business Park,
Wrexham Road, Mold, CH7 1XP.

Email - info@flvc.org.uk

Tel - 01352 744 000

Would you be happy to receive our Voluntary Voice newsletter electronically?

Our recent stakeholder survey indicated that over 85% of respondents would be happy to read this document online.

Printed copies will always be available and we recognise the importance of hard copies. If you would like to help us to reduce costs, and damage to the environment, and are happy to access this publication online please can you contact Jane Hewson, Communications Officer.
Email – jane.hewson@flvc.org.uk



Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC)

Our Vision:

FLVC's vision is of a strong sustainable and effective voluntary and community sector, involving and serving Flintshire people.

Our Mission:

FLVC's mission is to support, develop and promote voluntary and community activity in Flintshire and to strengthen the capacity of voluntary and community groups to contribute to the quality of life of Flintshire people and communities.

Welcome to the latest edition of Voluntary Voice.

Key words for FLVC staff since our last edition are quality and impact. As the national third sector support infrastructure body (Third Sector Support Wales) develops key priorities within our four pillars of work, we are reflecting these developments within our own Operational Plans.

Since the last edition you will be aware that there has been much change within our organisation – we are no longer able to provide Printing or Payroll services. We are aware that both services were much-valued by Third Sector groups across the county, but the decision to remove these functions was not made lightly – as an organisation we have had to focus on our unique role in promoting and developing Third Sector support, and re-evaluate our capacity to develop non-essential services and the costs involved in sustaining them.



Looking forward, we have negotiated alternative sources - all FLVC members will receive a 20% discount on printing via Double Click, the Social Enterprise Print and Design project run by Flintshire County Council's Mental Health Team and we have supported organisations to transfer their payroll service to recommended alternative providers. Although these have been difficult decisions to make, our organisation has to focus on balancing the books and meeting our targets for strengthening the sector. Please contact us if you have any printing or payroll enquiries and we will be able to signpost you to appropriate support.

We have been based in CORLAN for almost ten years, and are currently looking at our premises options for the future. As is the case with many Third Sector groups, rising costs and falling income levels mean we will need to source more cost effective office space. We will keep you informed of developments and thank you for your support during (yet another) period of change.

On a positive note, FLVC continues to have the privilege of supporting the voluntary and community sector in its vital, ground-breaking work.



As a member of Third Sector Support Wales all of our work falls within one or more of the following pillars:

- Engagement and Influencing eg working with Statutory partners to ensure the Third Sector's voice is heard and its role is valued
- Sustainable Funding – eg providing support for organisations to plan, source and apply for funding
- Good Governance eg – working with Trustees to develop policy, practice and Governance documents
- Volunteering eg – providing information and guidance regarding Volunteer Management

Third Sector Support Wales are currently developing more robust monitoring and evaluation processes for our work nationally, regionally and locally, which FLVC warmly welcomes.

You will see on page 4 our timetable of events for 2018. We look forward to seeing you at one or more of our events. Please contact a member of our team if we can help you in any way.

Best wishes

Ann



Chief Officer
01352 744028
ann.woods@flvc.org.uk

FLVC NETWORK EVENTS

	Volunteer Organisers Network	N.E.W. Wellbeing Network	Trustee Network	Annual Event/ Network
May		10th May 2018 Flintshire (Venue TBC)	22 May 2018 Corlan	
Jun				
Jul	23rd July 2018 9.30am - 12.00pm Corlan	12th July 2018 Wrexham (Venue TBC)		
Aug				
Sept		13th September 2018 Flintshire (Venue TBC)		13th September 2018 6.00pm FLVC AGM Theatr Clwyd
Oct	22nd October 2018 9.30am - 12.00pm Corlan		16th October 2018 Corlan	
Nov		8th November 2018 Wrexham (Venue TBC)		Third Sector Conference
Dec				
	To book a place at a Vol Org Event please contact Janet Owen on 01352 744016	To book a place at a Wellbeing Event please contact Karen Peters on 01352 744015	To book a place at a Trustee Event please contact Shaun Darlington on 01352 744 027	To book a place at an Annual Event please contact Jane Hewson on 01352 744030

Walkabout Flintshire.

What could be better than a walk in splendid countryside in the company of friends? Walkabout Flintshire's programme has plenty on offer. There are starter walks around town, and walks out in the local hills and even Nordic walking. All walks are free and led by trained, unpaid volunteers.

If you fancy an out-of-town walk, those are organised too. Walking groups have travelled as far afield as south Shropshire, Snowdonia, Wirral, Cheshire and Southport. Everyone agrees that they are a great day out.

So why walk? It's recognised that walking has positive benefits. They include loss of weight, lowering of blood pressure, reduced stress, boosted personal energy and the making of new friends.

Walkabout was first formed in 2003 as a walking for health group. This was an initiative by Clwyd County Council who appointed a full-time walk manager to develop free health walks throughout the county. Now a self-funded charity, we have more than 50 walk leaders leading 25 free walks a week across the county from Gronant to Mold and Buckley.

For the future, Walkabout would like to see regular walks in other areas of the county. Anyone wanting to take up this challenge would receive full leader training from our own team of qualified trainers. We are also looking at running more evening and weekend walks to encourage "timepoor" younger working folk.

The trustees are also working at obtaining further funding to secure the ongoing viability of free led walks in the county.

We have a website at www.walkaboutflintshire.com which has all the latest news and venues for our out-of-town ventures as well as programmes in English and Welsh. We can be contacted via the website and would be pleased to hear from new walkers at any time. Or you could follow us on Facebook; www.facebook.com/walkaboutflintshire.

Below: Enid Shaw (9th from right) celebrates her 80th birthday with the Mold walkers.



The *KIM Men in Sheds* is a recently established project based in Holywell which has the core aim of reducing men's social exclusion by creating an environment that encourages participation.

Its secondary aim is to provide the men with a range of hard and soft skills to support individual members who are seeking employment. 'Men's Sheds' are social groups set up in local communities for the benefit of men. How each individual shed looks and the activities that take place in them depends entirely on the skills and interests of the group.

The men who come from Holywell and the outlying rural areas set their own agenda for the shed for example:

- considering tasks they want to do and how to achieve them
- using local shops to purchase items within group budget
- keeping tools and building accounted for
- creating and improving community spaces
- learning skills in the shed that they can use at home
- planting crops to use in the KIM kitchen for community meals
- community meal preparation

All the work is underpinned by coming together as a team.

The KIM Men in Sheds project applied for a grant from the Flintshire Community Chest for equipment to provide the group with the resources to maintain the area they are working on and increase skills and employability. The grant totalling £750 will benefit approximately 40+ members annually.

New system to help organisations recruit and manage volunteers

Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) are to introduce a new digital platform enabling organisations to advertise for, recruit and manage volunteers, and for volunteers to find suitable roles. The platform being launched in April will be available at the pre-existing all-Wales volunteering database www.volunteering-wales.net. The system is free to use and provides improved functionality for organisations and volunteers.

Volunteers will be able to find opportunities by searching for keywords or according to distance from their home location. They will also be able to log the hours and skills they gain through volunteering and will receive digital badges. They will be able to easily share news about their volunteering activity on social media.

For organisations, the system will help you to recruit and manage volunteers, log volunteer hours, plan rotas and events, record training and experience and produce reports.

A wealth of online management tools are available through the system to make administrative tasks quicker and easier and to allow you more time to spend supporting volunteers, improving volunteer experiences and celebrating the difference that they make to your organisation.

Organisations that currently have volunteering opportunities on the 'old' version of the volunteering-wales.net website are asked to register afresh on the new system, and to start posting their volunteering opportunities.

If you are an organisation that recruits and manages volunteers and you'd like to try out the new system, please register as soon as possible on the temporary web address volunteerwales.teamkinetic.co.uk and start posting details of your volunteering opportunities now.

Bilingualism at Work

24th May 2018, Rhyl

Time: 10am - 1pm

Trainer: Welsh Language Commissioner

Cost: This is a FREE training session

Book online at www.wcva.org.uk/training

This FREE training session, run by the Welsh Language Commissioner, will enable attendees to develop their organisation's use of the Welsh language. It will provide information, research and practical advice to aid in planning for increasing the organisation's Welsh language provision.

What's the role of the Welsh language within the third sector? How is it relevant to you, your organisation and your service users? How can you plan to ensure you meet the needs of your audience? This half day training session will look at the advantages of the Welsh language, historical and current language context, the support available from the Welsh Language Commissioner and practical planning to develop your Welsh language provision.

Managing Safely

4th - 6th June 2018 (3 days)

Venue: Groundwork North Wales, 3-4 Plas Power, Tanyfron, Wrexham LL11 5SZ

Trainer: All courses are taught by an accredited fully qualified trainer.

For more information and to book, please contact the Training Team on 01978 757 524

This flexible three-day certificated course is nationally recognised and will deliver in detail the knowledge and tools for you to tackle health and safety issues in your specific environment. This course is suitable for managers and supervisors in every sector and in any organisation.

Managing Safely introduces a completely new approach to health and safety training. It's a face-to-face interactive course covering all the management basics with first class technical content based on what you really need to know to conduct your business.

Course materials, training pack, certificate and refreshments included. Please bring your own lunch.

Autism Awareness Certification Online Access

The ASD Aware Certification Scheme - An introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders and some advice about how you can help. The scheme aims to reward those who undertake some learning about Autism Spectrum Disorders, and is aimed at all.

After accessing the scheme, you will be asked to enter your details. This information will be used to monitor the uptake of the scheme across Wales and within businesses and services.

After entering your details, you will be asked to complete answers to a series of 20 questions. If you are successful with this, a personalised certificate will be created for you to download. If you enter an incorrect answer, you will be given the opportunity to try again.

To see the ASD Aware organisations who have signed up to the scheme, or if your organisation would like to get involved, go to:

www.ASDinfoWales.co.uk/organisations

To access the introduction PowerPoint and PDF supporting documents, please visit **<http://www.asdinfoWales.co.uk/asdaware>**

FLVC – Training Programme

We are currently in the process of updating our Training Programme. **For further information on courses run by FLVC please contact jane.hewson@flvc.org.uk**



Institute of Fundraising Cymru – Fundraising Health Check

Registered charities with two or more members of staff and with voluntary income of up to £50,000 are invited to apply for fundraising support as part of our Big Lottery Funded “Fundraising Health Check and Executive Coaching” project.

Successful charities will be matched with an experienced coach who will help them develop a new fundraising strategy, thereby increasing the fundraising skills and knowledge within the charity.

**For an information pack and application form please contact:
alisonp@institute-of-fundraising.org.uk or call
02920 340062**



National Lottery Awards for All

Offers funding from £300 to £10,000 to support what matters to people and communities.

You can apply if your organisation is a:

- voluntary or community organisation
- registered charity
- constituted group or club

- not-for-profit company or Community Interest Company
- social enterprise
- school
- statutory body (including town, parish and community council).

There are currently two ways to apply: via PDF application form or via online application form.

For further information and to download an application form go to www.biglotteryfund.org.uk



The Naturesave Trust

The principal areas of funding are:

- Conservation Projects – Working with communities and organisations to protect wildlife and improve biodiversity
- Social Enterprise Projects – Working with charities and voluntary organisations to support vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
- Community Renewable Energy Grants – Providing startup ‘seed corn’ grants for community renewable energy projects
- Environmental Performance Reviews – The Trust also funds independent reviews for commercial customers of Naturesave Insurance. These help our business customers to become more sustainable.

**Further information is available at:
<http://www.naturesave.co.uk/the-naturesave-trust/>**

Institute of Fundraising Cymru - Executive Coaching Opportunity

Applications are now open for our Executive Coaching offer, as part of our Big Lottery Funded Third Sector Skills Project. Coaching is available for individual fundraisers.

About:

- Funded by Big Lottery Fund's 'Third Sector Skills' initiative
- For individual, professional fundraisers
- 30 participants over 3 years
- Initial meeting and assessment
- Six days' consultancy time
- £2800 worth of consultancy support for just £1100 investment from charity.

Criteria:

- Registered charities based in Wales
- At least one dedicated Fundraiser

For an application form and information pack please apply to:

AlisonP@institute-of-fundraising.org.uk or call 02920 340062.

Greggs Foundation's Environmental Grants Scheme opens for second round in 2018

The Gregg's Foundation's Environmental Grants programme is now inviting applications for grants of up to £2,000 for projects in England, Wales or Scotland that deliver a real benefit to the environment.

Projects must address one or more of the following:

- Improving the local environment
- Insuring involvement of local communities
- Delivering a sustainable and measurable difference
- Supporting people in need

The funding can be used to cover the purchase of equipment, sessional salary costs, purchase of trees/plants, small capital projects and learning activities.

Not-for-profit organisations with a turnover of £300,000 or less as well as schools in England, Scotland and Wales can apply.

Organisations that are based near Greggs shops will be given priority.

The next deadline for applications is 22 June 2018 (midnight).

Further details are available from Greggs Foundation on 0191 212 7626.

FLVC NEWS

- Flintshire Local Voluntary Council has had some staffing changes. Our Early help Hub Co-ordinator Jan Owen is now working within our Volunteer Centre. Congratulations to Jan! The Hub post is being advertised whilst this is going to print, and Kate Howard (Single Point of Access Co-ordinator) is covering in the interim.
- Our Families First Young People's Volunteering Project is changing which has meant we are saying goodbye to Matt Weedall after 5 years of service working with Young People with FLVC. March 2018 also marks the closure of our Printroom Service and Irene Langford, who has helped many of you with your printing and publicity, will be leaving the organisation after many years service. We wish them both well in their future endeavours.
- Our National body, Third Sector Support Wales, is introducing new web-based Records Management and Impact Measurement tools for collation of data and outcome information. Watch this space!



Accredited Induction Courses available for your volunteers

Is your organisation recruiting and supporting volunteers? Would you like them to access an accredited, generic volunteer induction course?

FLVC are offering a two day Volunteer Induction Course for volunteers/potential volunteers linked to organisations based in Flintshire.

The Course is accredited with Agored Cymru (2 credits at Entry Level 2) and includes general aspects of:

- Health and Safety
- Equal Opportunities
- Confidentiality
- Boundaries
- Support and Supervision of Volunteers
- Basics of Safeguarding (very brief introduction)

The course can be adapted to explore the Volunteering roles within the organisations represented by the attendees – (Organisations are asked to share their Volunteer Role Descriptions with FLVC prior to the course)

Course Title: Induction for Volunteers

Level: Entry Level 2 **Credit Value:** 2

Number of hours: 10 (over two days or three evenings)

Cost per participant: From FREE to £80 (dependent on your organisation's income threshold)

The course is delivered in a structured, but informal manner and participants are offered the opportunity to complete a short portfolio of evidence to submit for Accreditation of their work (optional) Participants will be supported by the FLVC Volunteer Centre staff team throughout the course.

For more information please contact The Volunteer Centre, FLVC Tel: 01352 744000 info@flvc.org.uk

The participants on the **Stepping Up to Volunteering** course have been very busy over the last month. They have been conserving the environment at the Llwyni reserve in Connah's Quay and in the Greenfield Valley Heritage Park, carrying out roles in charity shops in Mold and event volunteering where they had the chance to play some drums from all over the world!

If you want to find out more about the Stepping Up to Volunteering course contact:
Chris.Ablett@flvc.org.uk (01352 744019)
or Jill.Blandford@flvc.org.uk (01352 744001)

Volunteering and Public Services in Wales paper

January 2018 - commissioned by WCVA Sandy Clubb

Public services in Wales are changing due to factors including the need to meet increased demand with reduced resources. This change presents a number of opportunities and challenges, and offers the potential to rethink the role of volunteering and social action within public service delivery.

Volunteers already play an important role in delivering public services, and with the right planning and support, there is scope to achieve more and deliver even better outcomes. Early planning for volunteering, supported by strong leadership from Welsh Government, public sector and third sector leaders, will be an important enabler.

The benefits of increased volunteer involvement are far ranging, including; improved outcomes within public services; health and wellbeing benefits for volunteers; better designed services due to increased citizen engagement; improved local recruitment and retention of staff as a result of volunteers entering employment, and many more besides.

There are challenges to be overcome, for example fears that volunteering may be used as a cover for budget cuts. Much is known however about what

already works, and this paper includes a series of recommendations about how to make public service volunteering successful and of maximum benefit.

Questions to be put to decision makers include how they will support and fund innovative approaches to volunteer involvement and partnership working between the third and public sectors, including support for community organisations whose funding is under threat or already cut

For a copy of the full paper please email Fiona Liddell: FLiddell@WCVA.org.uk

'Step Up Step Out' is a supported volunteering programme that FLVC runs in partnership with North East Wales MIND. We run group volunteering courses on Tuesday and get to sample a whole range of opportunities throughout the county. We particularly like to spend time volunteering outdoors as we know that spending time in nature improves our physical and mental wellbeing.

This year, thanks once again to funding from ACTIF WOODS WALES, we have been able to offer an OCN in Coppice Products at Bodfari Woodland Skills Centre. On this Coppice Products Course, we have been learning about the woodland, identifying trees and learning how everything is interconnected. Using traditional methods, we have been working with wood taken directly from the local woodland and learning to make simple tools. We have had the opportunity to make charcoal, a woven fence panel called a hurdle and also hedge-laying.

"It has been a great opportunity to make new friends and learn new skills.

It has given me a focus in the week and has allowed me to forget about my problems."

Safeguarding is a key governance priority, Charity Commission reminds trustees.

The Charity Commission has published a press release reminding trustees that safeguarding should be a priority for all charities, not just those working with groups traditionally considered at risk. This comes as the regulator publishes a report which shows that safeguarding concerns are an increasing feature in its compliance casework with charities.

The Commission's annual report on its compliance casework, Tackling Abuse and Mismanagement, reveals that safeguarding concerns featured in 302 regulatory compliance cases opened in 2016-17, up from 163 in the previous year. Disclosures with other agencies that have safeguarding responsibilities have increased by 30%, at 244 (up from 187 in 2015-16). Six statutory inquiries, the regulator's most serious type of engagement with charities, featured safeguarding concerns.

Over half of serious incidents reported by the charities to their regulator related to safeguarding concerns (1,203 of 2,182).

The Commission recently updated its strategy on safeguarding in charities, which reminded trustees that they should proactively safeguard and promote the welfare of their charity's beneficiaries and take reasonable steps to ensure that their beneficiaries or others who come into contact with their charity do not, as a result, come to harm.

Last month, the Commission issued an alert to charities reminding them of the importance of safeguarding, following a number of reports of serious incidents, and growing public interest in and concerns about accusations of harassment in the work place, including media reporting about some safeguarding incidents which have affected charities.

You can read the press release and the full report on the Charity Commission's website.

WCVA's Safeguarding service is there to support the sector with free information and guidance on safeguarding. If you have any queries or concerns about safeguarding in your organisation, please get in touch with their Safeguarding Officer, Suzanne Mollison by emailing safeguarding@wcva.org.uk or call their helpdesk on 0800 2888 329.