



Representative Opportunity

There is currently a VCS Representative opportunity on Worcestershire Arts Partnership. He/she will ensure that there are effective links between the Arts Partnership and the sector. Deadline for application is the 14th August 2009. For Further details Please see www.winc.org.uk/representation_opportunities

Good News - Where Next Association receives grant of £20,000!

Where Next Association has received a grant of £20,000 from The Clothworkers' Foundation.

This has enabled the Charity to purchase a vehicle plus other items of equipment essential to the running of Where Next Sernal, a new social enterprise based in Studley. The multi-purpose vehicle will be used for transferring clients between sites, training visits and for transporting plant and furniture stock and customer deliveries.

The Association provides real work opportunities for people with special needs. For more information about Where Next see www.wherenextassociation.co.uk

News From WIC Business Support Hub - Requests for Organisational Support

WIC would like to thank all VCS organisations that responded to the WIC Needs Survey. Respondents to the survey will have already heard from WIC members with opportunities to address some of your requests.

The way we are going to bring these benefits directly to respondents, is to firstly link your requests with already planned WIC activity, where something is already planned. Secondly, WIC members will agree a training programme to meet some of the outstanding and priority needs, to be delivered during the autumn and winter. Thirdly, where there was a need identified by only one organisation or a small number and training would not be a viable response, we will endeavour to contact you on a one

one basis and assess your needs and how they may best be met.

WIC are working towards setting up training for Autumn 2009 to March 2010. This will be aimed at meeting the highest priority needs identified by the survey, including: Leading an effective team; Planning for sustainability; Long term planning for your organisation; Costing, tendering and bid writing; Leading an effective management committee; Community development work skills; Evidencing that you embed equality and diversity in everything you do; First Aid and others. For a full report on these activities please visit www.winc.org.uk/news

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NEWS FOR THE
VOLUNTARY AND
COMMUNITY SECTOR IN
WORCESTERSHIRE

THEvoice

Note from WIC Chair



this issue

Credit Crunch Special Funding Opportunities
VCS Representative Opportunity
News from WIC's Hubs

Negotiating the Credit Crunch

WIC have been working to help you negotiated the Credit Crunch. We now have a dedicated Credit Crunch area of our webpages including regularly updated information on:

- ◇ Consultation and Findings at National and Regional Level
- ◇ Conferences and Training
- ◇ Funding Opportunities
- ◇ And Local Government Response to the Economic Downturn - Groups and Committees.

We also have two WIC members who sit on one of the groups of the Partnership's Economic Watch Task Force, they will be feeding back findings and activities via our webpages.

Further WIC activities include: preparing a Credit Crunch themed afternoon for our Conference in November, and we continue to track, facilitate and inform you of funding opportunities at National, regional and district level.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

WIC Annual Conference :

Sharon Palmer of RAWM is to discuss how the VCS can respond to the challenges of the Economic downturn.

Tuesday 24th November 2009 - Worcester Rugby Football Club

ANY COMMENTS?

Please contact
Jim Smith
wavocc@btconnect.com
Tel: 01684 575545



VCS VOICES HUB

The last quarter has been a busy one for The Voices Hub. We have begun to send out a regular bulletin for VCS representatives: put together by the Chair of the hub Sally Ellison .

We have also worked on the implementation of usage of the VCS Representatives Feedback Form. This form is available on the WIC webpages, and we would like to encourage all VCS representatives to begin using this essential communication tool.

The VCS Voices hub will shortly be carrying out the second of it's VCS Representative Listening Events in this calendar year. So please do watch out for future communications about this event.

Lastly, we have been visiting LDA (Local Development Agencies) and discussing the worth of representation. Speak to you local WIC Member for details.

For full view of our representation work, visit www.winc.org.uk or contact Jim J Smith at wavocc@btconnect.com

WORCESTERSHIRE

SOURCE OF EXCELLENCE



Deloitte LLP To review Worcestershire Partnership

Working with the VCS to assess our role in Partnership structures

Deloitte LLP are undertaking a review of the structure and performance management arrangements of the Worcestershire Partnership, their work includes working with the VCS to assess the role of the VCS in the Partnership structures.

As part of this work they are keen to gain the views of members of the VCS from across Worcestershire about engagement and representation on the Partnership. A short questionnaire containing a series of statements on which you can comment will be circulated

electronically over the next couple of weeks. Statements included in this questionnaire might include, 'The Worcestershire Partnership engages well with the VCS and takes account of their viewpoint.'

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Alternatively, by mid-August you will be able to access the questionnaire directly via the Worcestershire Infrastructure website.

There will then be a month for the VCS to respond.

Deloitte and the Partnership hope that you will be able to spend 10 or 15 minutes to complete the questionnaire and they look forward to hearing your views and opinions.

If you have any specific queries or comments that you would like to raise outside of the questionnaire please contact Claire Williams from Deloitte LLP on 07843 327927 or email claiwilliams@deloitte.co.uk



Criteria for the new £16.7m Hardship Fund announced

July 2009 - Hardship Fund Opens



The 16.7 million Hardship Fund for charities, announced in the Budget in April, has opened for applications. The fund offers grants of between £50,000 and £200,000 for third sector organisations in England that work with vulnerable and disadvantaged people but are in financial difficulty .

To apply, organisations must have an annual turnover of at least £200,000 and deliver services in health and Social Care, housing support, education and training, or information advice and guidance.

For further details please look on the Cabinet Office— Office of the Third Sector Webpages at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector.aspx

Picture Left: Last Years West Mercia Grant which funded the Drop-In Centre run by Youth Outreach Stourport, providing Friday night activities for 13-18 year-olds in the town.

This year grants totaling £10,000 are being made available by the North Worcestershire Division of West Mercia Police to voluntary and community groups, and registered charities in Redditch, Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest. The funding is for projects that support crime reduction and community safety. The Projects must be completed and the grants spent by March 31, 2010. Application forms are available from the West Mercia Police website : www.westmercia.police.uk/localpolicing/northworcs/northworcs.htm Application Deadline 31st August 2009

VOLUNTEERING HUB

Volunteers Week Celebrations

Held annually between 1st and 7th of June, this year's Volunteers' Week marked the 25th national celebration of volunteers' contribution to local communities.

To mark the event the Hub displayed information on volunteering and presented volunteer success stories. The display was showcased for a week at County Hall.

Volunteer Centres across the county celebrated locally and ran a range of events

Volunteer Forum

Preparations for the next Volunteer Forum have started. We shall be looking at the link between volunteering and employability in the current climate with rising numbers of people out of work and seeking employment. "Volunteering - a pathway into work" will be held on Thursday 1st of October 9:30am to 1:00pm. Please block this date in your diary, more information will follow. For an invite contact Gabi at volunteeringhubworcs@yahoo.co.uk