



## Voluntary Sector Involvement in Community Health Partnerships

### Briefing Paper: July 2005

#### Council for Voluntary Service Fife

*As most of you will now be aware, Local Health Care Co-operatives have now evolved into three Community Health Partnerships in Fife as part of the National Health Service Reform, and the new CHPs will be at the centre of health care planning and delivery. This development has significant implications for voluntary sector health and wellbeing organisations, as this briefing paper will outline.*

#### Where Does CVS Fife Fit In?

CVS Fife is the Fife-wide Council for Voluntary Service which exists to support, develop and promote the voluntary sector in Fife. A member of Fife Community Planning Partnership, CVS Fife has responsibility for advocating for the voluntary sector at a strategic level as well as facilitating voluntary sector involvement in Community Planning. As the Scottish Executive has stipulated that there must be one voluntary sector seat on every CHP and that these new bodies are to be part of the Community Planning process, CVS Fife has a role to play in facilitating voluntary sector involvement in CHPs in Fife.

#### Kirkcaldy Event

In February of 2005, over 100 representatives of voluntary sector Health & Wellbeing organisations were invited by CVS Fife to attend an event which was addressed by Professor James McGoldrick, Chair of NHS Fife. This event was designed to raise awareness of Community Health Partnerships and to ask voluntary sector representatives to consider how they might make the best use of the opportunity of a place on each of the three CHPs in Fife.

#### Elections & Health and Wellbeing Forums

Feedback from the Kirkcaldy event demonstrated that there was support for holding Fife-wide elections for the role of Voluntary Sector Representative on each of the CHPs. Participants believed that this democratic approach was the best way to select representatives who would be prepared to advocate for the voluntary sector, and who would be respected by the CHP committee as having a valid mandate to act on behalf of the sector. The sector also supported the creation of three Voluntary Sector Health & Wellbeing Forums which will match the same geographical areas as the CHPs. These forums will not only provide support to the Voluntary Sector Representative in each area, but also provide a structure for voluntary sector involvement in the wider Health & Wellbeing agenda. The first two meetings of the Voluntary Sector Health & Wellbeing Forums took place in June for the Kirkcaldy & Levenmouth and Glenrothes & North East Fife area, and attendance was good. Forum Chairs have now been elected and communication & consultation methods agreed for both.

#### What's Next?

For CVS Fife, the focus now is on organising the first Health & Wellbeing Forum meeting for Dunfermline & West Fife. Following the model developed with the first two meetings, an external consultant, Shirley Otto, will work with attendees to map out a structure for the forum, and agree methods of communication and consultation.

It was decided to take this approach to the inaugural meetings so that members could take ownership of the forums right from the start, and could discuss some of the challenges ahead as well as consider the ways we can work around these challenges. Funding from Voluntary Health Scotland allowed CVS Fife to engage an external consultant to facilitate this approach to the sessions.

The Dunfermline & West Forum Meeting will take place w/c Monday 22nd August at the BLCC at Lauder College. For further details on this or on any of the network issues covered in this paper, contact **Douglas McLellan**, Network Support Officer, on 01593 414588 or email [dmclellan@cvsfife.org](mailto:dmclellan@cvsfife.org)



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#### CVS Fife Support

Following the event in February, CVS Fife ran the nomination and election process to facilitate the selection of the three Voluntary Sector Representatives. The elections attracted a strong turnout, and by the end of May the three Representatives were in place (see opposite for details).

#### Network Support Officer

Douglas McLellan, CVS Fife's Network Support Officer, has a key role in supporting the Voluntary Sector Representatives and in facilitating the Health & Wellbeing Forums. He has now facilitated meetings between each of the reps and the new Community Health Partnership Managers to allow the reps to be involved at the earliest stages of CHP developments. His next task will be to organise the inaugural meeting of the Dunfermline and West Fife Health & Wellbeing Forum (see front). Douglas can be contacted on 01592 414588, or email [dmclellan@cvsfife.org](mailto:dmclellan@cvsfife.org)

Other CVS Fife staff members also directly involved in Community Planning activity include Alison Cameron, Manager, member of Fife Partnership, Bryan Poole, Deputy Manager, member of the Community Planning Implementation Group, and Kirsty Dawson, CVS Fife's Community Planning Animator. The Network Support Officer's role is supported by CVS Fife's Information Officer, Carole Patrick. All staff can be contacted via the number below.

#### Voluntary Sector Health & Wellbeing Forums and CHP Representatives: Who's Who

##### Dunfermline & West

##### **Voluntary Sector CHP Representative:**

*Jessie Roberts, PAMIS*

01382 345154

Springfield House, 15/16 Springfield, University of Dundee, Dundee DD1 4JE

##### **Health & Wellbeing Forum Chair:**

*To Be Elected*

##### Kirkcaldy & Levenmouth

##### **Voluntary Sector CHP Representative:**

*Stuart Pryde, Fife Families Support Project*

01592 641401

Unit 3, Fraser Building, Millie Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY1 2NL

##### **Health & Wellbeing Forum Chair:**

*Gail Kilbane, Alzheimer Scotland, Action on Dementia*

01592 204541

152 High Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY1 1NQ

##### Glenrothes & North East Fife

##### **Voluntary Sector CHP Representative:**

*Isabel Wilson, Leonard Cheshire Foundation*

01592 771685

Glamis House, Blair Avenue, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 4RT

##### **Health & Wellbeing Forum Chair:**

*Elaine Fox, ENeRGI*

32 East Street, St Monans, Fife KY10 2AT

#### ICT Developments

CVS Fife's Network Support Officer, Douglas McLellan, and Ron Smith, our ICT Adviser, will be developing CVS Fife's website so there will be dedicated sections for the Health & Wellbeing Forums where a variety of resources relating to the CHPs and the health and wellbeing agenda in Fife will be available.

<http://www.cvsfife.org>

It is also the intention to develop an email network, to allow network members to communicate in-between meetings and get together in small groups to address issues which require a quick response.