

CVS Fife Newsletter

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Big Lottery Fund Launches Its Manifesto for Community Investment in Scotland

November 22nd saw the long-awaited announcement of the Big Lottery in Scotland's new funding programmes. Interestingly, the BLF has reassessed its image, and no longer describes itself as a "grant-maker", but instead as an "investment funder". The four headings under which the BLF in Scotland will distribute funding over the next three years are as follows:

- Growing Community Assets
- Life Transitions
- Building Dynamic, Inclusive Communities
- Supporting 21st Century Life

In addition to these four funding areas, the BLF is also going to launch the Investing in Ideas programme, which will provide smaller sums of money for organisations to develop their project plans, test out ideas and increase their ability to deliver.

So when are these programmes open for business?

The Investing in Ideas Fund is due to be launched in January of 2006, and the other four programmes should be open for applications in the Spring of 2006. This means that there has been a considerable gap between the closure of the Community Fund programmes in May this year and the launch of the new BLF funding streams, but Dharmendra Kanani, Director of the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland, has said that in his view it is important that the application process and guidelines for the programmes are absolutely right before they are opened for business.

How Can I Get More Details?

The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland has an Enquiries and Information Line which is contactable on 0870 240 2391, or see the website: www.biglottery.org.uk



Office of Scottish Charity Regulator Consultation

Following the passing of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act in July, OSCR is preparing to take on its new duties and responsibilities.

This preparation includes running a consultation process on three specific areas, as follows:

- Establishing an Accurate Charity Register
- Meeting the Charity Test
- Consents and Notifications

Individuals and representatives from charitable and voluntary organisations with an interest in how OSCR develops as an independent body and how it tackles these areas of responsibility are being encouraged to take part in the consultation and feed in their views.

The issue of establishing a Charity Test caused considerable controversy at the time of the Bill's passage through the Scottish Parliament, and whatever is decided about the test will eventually have an impact on all Scottish Charities. In April 2006, all charities currently recognised in Scotland by the Inland Revenue will be entered onto the new Scottish Charity Register by OSCR. The responsibility for granting Charitable Status will then fall to OSCR. In time, OSCR will also start a rolling review

of existing charities to establish that they meet the Charity Test. This will mean charities being required to show that their activities are charitable in the context of the new test, and that they provide public benefit according to the new criteria. It is thought that this process will not begin before Spring 2007.

The consultation documents are available online at: www.oscr.org.uk/Consultations.stm or you can contact OSCR on 01382 220446. The deadline for all responses is 27th January.

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Prizewinner on the Training Trail

Elaine Simpson, of Cornerstone, Levenmouth Homeless Trust, was the lucky winner of CVS Fife's Training Project's Autumn Competition. Elaine correctly guessed that the picture on the front cover of the Training



Programme was a close-up shot of the underside of a computer mouse. There were eight correct entries, and Elaine's was the first name out of the hat. Elaine is pictured being presented with her gift voucher by Ian Cowie, CVS Fife's Learning Services Co-ordinator. Congratulations!

The Training Project has experienced a positive response to the chargeable courses it now offers in areas such as Health & Safety, Food Hygiene and Emergency First Aid. Staff from the project have also been undertaking a series of face-to-face visits with voluntary organisations to build up a greater knowledge of current and forthcoming training needs. In many cases, legislative requirements are driving training needs, and CVS Fife is committed to working with the sector to make sure it can meet these requirements while keeping training costs to an affordable level.

One of the organisations which has recently taken part in one of these face-to-face visits is FIRST (Fife Intensive Rehabilitation and Substance Misuse Team). FIRST is a charity which provides a community rehabilitation service to people aged over 16 years living in Fife. Staff

members at FIRST gave positive feedback on the training they have received to date through CVS Fife, which they believe has strengthened their service provision:

"Training provided by CVS Fife has enabled staff to keep up to date with current legislation. This training has conveniently been at a local venue. This type of training via other sources would have meant travelling to Edinburgh or Glasgow which is both costly and time-consuming."

The views of the FIRST staff team (pictured right) echo those of many of the client organisations interviewed for the Knowledge Partnership evaluation of the CVS Fife Training Project during 2005, where the accessibility and relevance of the training provided was highly commended.

The new Winter Training Programme should by now have landed on your desk, and it is also available on our website:

www.cvsfife.org

If your organisation would be interested in discussing specific training requirements with CVS Fife staff, or in booking places on any of our courses, please contact Sandra Bruce on 01592 569936, or email: sbruce@cvsfife.org. We look forward to hearing from you!



Race Equality, Integration and Community Support Fund

The new Race Equality, Integration and Community Support funding programme has been launched by the Scottish Executive, providing £2 million over two years.

The fund is one of the main actions taken in response to the recent Scottish Executive Review of Race Equality Work, and will have the following objectives:

- eliminating racial inequality and disadvantage
- combating racism and racist crime
- driving up public sector performance on race equality
- fostering integration and promoting dialogue/ understanding between

- communities developing the awareness and ability of communities to engage with this agenda
- developing the organisational capacity of the minority ethnic voluntary sector and promoting closer working with main stream services
- improving the provision of services and support to minority ethnic communities

The fund is open to a wide range of organisations from the voluntary

sector who are able to demonstrate that they can meet the goals of the fund. This will include agencies providing both direct specialist support and advisory services to minority ethnic communities as well as those working to promote race equality and integration more generally. The deadline for applications is **3rd February 2006**. If you are interested in finding out more or in applying to the fund, see the One Scotland website:

www.onescotland.com

Health & Wellbeing Forums: New Round of Meetings

The Voluntary Sector Health & Wellbeing Forums in Glenrothes & North East Fife, Kirkcaldy & Levenmouth and Dunfermline & West Fife all met again at the end of November.

Members of the Forum were given an update report by their CHP representative, giving an insight into the initial development of the Community Health Partnership in each area. While it is still early stages for all of the partnerships, their work is now expanding into service issues, and in some cases working groups are being set up to tackle specific issues.

In addition to updates from the

representatives, forum members also had input from guest speaker Richard Brewster on the role of the Scottish Health Council (Kirkcaldy & Levenmouth and Dunfermline & West Fife) and Stuart Pryde on the Mental Health Services Review (Glenrothes & North East Fife).

If you are interested in joining one of the forums, please contact Douglas McLellan on 01592 414588, or see our website: www.cvsfife.org

Central Fife Bi-Polar Group Award Success

Congratulations to the Central Fife Bi-Polar Group which has been awarded an Awards for All grant. The money awarded will allow the group to run six open information sessions, and to undertake some publicity work to raise the profile of the group. Our Resource Worker, Mary Cormack, works with smaller organisations, and assisted the group to put its application together. If you think that your group could benefit from Mary's support, please contact CVS Fife on 01592 414588.

Fife Council's Review of Support to the Voluntary Sector

Many of you will have taken part in a survey carried out in October and November of last year looking at Fife Council's support for voluntary organisations where it provides direct funding.

This survey followed on from a series of information events held early in 2004, facilitated by CVS Fife, where voluntary organisations were briefed on the changes the Council was making to the way it works with the organisations it funds. Voluntary organisations were encouraged to give feedback in relation to the proposals, and a number of areas for action were

identified in terms of day-to-day communication and support for voluntary organisations funded by the Council. The 2005 survey was designed to find out how successfully these action points have been addressed and to identify areas which require further work.

A range of organisations have taken part in this 2005 review, including

statutory agencies and services supporting the voluntary sector. Voluntary Organisations taking part in the survey were asked specifically to comment on the areas of:

- Finance
- Service Level Agreements
- Link Officer Support

Over 150 questionnaires were (report continues overleaf)

Trust me, I'm an ICT Adviser: Top Techy Tips

Our ICT Adviser, Ron Smith, shares his handy hints for keeping sane while dealing with your computer...

TIP1: If you need to copy files between disks and folders you can open several "File Explorer" windows and drag/drop files between them.

A quick way to open a "File Explore" window is to hold down the Windows Key (between Ctrl and Alt) and then press "E". Browse to a folder that you want to copy from. Use the Windows Key+"E" again to open another File Explorer window and browse to the folder you want to copy to. Now you can drag from window to window.

TIP2: Windows File Explorer sets the default view to be thumbnails. This is not very helpful when you are trying to find stuff. In File Explorer, select View, Details – this will show a list of files instead of thumbnails. Now select Tools, Folder Options. Un-tick the "Hide Extension for Known File Types". While still on the Folder Options page, click "Apply to All Folders".

TIP3: Most often when you sign up

to an Internet Provider, the software that sets up your connection also sets the Internet Explorer home page to their site. So, every time you open Internet Explorer, you have to wait until your ISPs page is displayed before you can select/type in the site that you really want.

You can change the default home page to something more useful: use Internet Explorer to find a page you like and then select Tools, Internet Options, Use Current. Now you have the home page you want!

TIP4: If you currently use a dial-up internet connection, consider going Broadband. This may not cost much more than you are currently paying and it will free up your phone line and provide possibilities for sharing

internet access on more than one PC. Contact us for advice.

TIP5: Keep your Windows and Office software up-to-date with the latest updates. In Start, Programs there is a Windows Update option. Many of the updates and service packs are large downloads. If you have a dial-up connection you may find this

inconvenient. Microsoft produces a regular Windows XP magazine that provides most of the large file updates on CD or DVD.

TIP6: Keep your computer secure. You need to have Anti-Virus software that is updated regularly. You may also need a Firewall and Anti-Spyware software. Check our website for some additional information or contact us.

www.cvsfife.org



Fife Council: Review of Support to the Voluntary Sector

(report continued from page 3) issued to voluntary organisations, and the response rate was very high. All responses have now been analysed, and a draft report has been prepared which will be discussed by the Voluntary Sector Task Group prior to being presented to Fife Council's Policy and Resources Committee in February. A number of recommendations will be made in terms of how the Council can

strengthen the support it offers to the voluntary organisations it funds. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took part in the review, whether by filling in a questionnaire or taking part in a telephone interview. Your participation in this review will help to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the support provided to voluntary organisations by the Council, and in turn give us the opportunity to build on that

support and strengthen partnership working.

Once we have a finalised copy of the report on the Review, we will post it on our website, and update you on progress. We will also include future updates in our newsletter. In the meantime, if you have any specific queries about the review, please contact Caron Hughes, CVS Fife's representative on the Voluntary Sector Task Group, on 01592 414588.

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