

CVS Fife Newsletter

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So Long, Farewell

CVS Fife Staff and Board members and colleagues from the voluntary and statutory sectors gathered at Kirkcaldy Golf Club on 26th January to say goodbye to Alison Cameron, CVS Fife's Manager since its establishment in 1998. CVS Fife's loss has been Avante Consulting's gain, as Alison has taken up the position of Senior Consultant with the social policy consultancy firm. A number of speakers at the leaving event paid tribute to the contribution Alison has made to developing the profile of the voluntary sector in Fife while also managing and growing CVS Fife, and particular mention was made of her contribution to voluntary sector engagement in Community Planning.



Alison's leaving night offered up a few surprises for the departing manager, not least around the duplicity of some of her colleagues (including Bryan Poole, pictured left, and Andy Penman, below) who had gathered up some interesting photographs and anecdotes concerning her to entertain those who attended. Luckily for all concerned, Alison retained her trademark good humour throughout the proceedings, and is pictured joining in with the fun.



Alison said: "It's with considerable sadness that I am leaving my many colleagues and friends in Fife and beyond, but this is a very exciting opportunity for me – it's not always easy for senior staff in the sector to make a career move. And as a consultant, I hope that my experience and my knowledge of the sector will enable me to support it in a different way, by promoting and developing its role within partnerships and projects throughout Scotland."

Changes

Following Alison's departure, CVS Fife has made some changes to its staffing structure. Bryan Poole, formerly Deputy Manager, has stepped up to the position of Acting Deputy Manager, and Carole Patrick, previously CVS Fife's Information Officer, has taken on the role of Acting Deputy Manager.

In addition, CVS Fife's HR Adviser, Karyn McComiskie, has now left us to take up a new position with the Scottish Society for Autism, and Mary Cormack, our part-time Resource Worker has also moved on to spend more time with her family. We wish both Karyn and Mary well and thank them both for the contribution they have made to CVS Fife. Interim arrangements have been made to enable CVS Fife to continue to provide HR advice and support for small community groups – please contact us if your organisation could benefit from these services.

21st Birthday Awards

A short list of five projects has been drawn up to go forward from Fife for the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland special one-off 21st Birthday Award. Both CVS Fife and VONEF have written to voluntary and community organisations across Fife asking them to vote for one of the five projects, so the final decision on which organisation gets the funding award of £21,000 for one year lies with the voluntary sector. Already an encouraging number of organisations have taken the time to vote, but if you have not sent your ballot paper back, we would like to encourage you to do so. All votes must be cast by Friday 3rd March, and the Foundation plans to publicise the final list of winners on Tuesday 7th March. For news on the Fife winner, keep your eye on the CVS Fife website: www.cvsfife.org



Inside

Children's Forum 10th Anniversary . . .	2	Big Lottery Fund News	3
New Mental Health Group	2	In It Together Review	3
Health & Wellbeing Forums	2	Promote Your Events	4
Volunteer Centre Fife Conference	3	Smoke Free Zone	4

10th Anniversary of Fife's Voluntary Sector Children's Forum

2006 marks the 10th Anniversary of Fife Voluntary Sector Children's Forum (FVSCF). The Forum has been around in one guise or another since forming as a Child Protection Group back in 1996.

In 2002 FVSCF took steps, supported by CVS Fife, to become the representative network it is today and undertook the election of representatives to a wide variety of multi-agency committees in Fife including the Children's Services Committee and the Child Protection Committee. The representatives of voluntary sector children's services organisations then further developed the Forum by agreeing a new Remit and arranging elections for a Chair.

As Community Planning Structures developed in Fife, the FVSCF became responsible for electing representatives to the Children's Services Theme Groups, and then in mid-2004, Local Children's Services Groups. By this stage the Forum was growing in stature and was building its meetings to include input from guest speakers from statutory agencies to provide information and answer questions about service developments.

2005 saw further development with new Roles and Remits agreed for both the full Forum and the Co-ordinating Group (made up of those carrying out a representative role). Lynn Gillies of Barnardos Family Matters was elected as Fife Voluntary Sector Children's Forum's new Chair. A number of sub-forums developed in response to the Local Children's Services

Groups and FVSCF was seen by Fife Council as the body to secure voluntary sector representation on key committees such as the Early Years Strategy Review Group. The

Forum also enhanced its contacts with the statutory sector by securing two-way dialogue with Michelle Miller, Senior Manager with Fife Council Social Work

Department (Children and Families and Criminal Justice), and arranging for Sandra Thain, Child Protection Committee Co-ordinator, to become an ex-officio member of the Forum.

The first meeting of FVSCF in 2006 will take place on the 26th April and will have Funding as its key agenda item. This forum meeting will seek to build a clearer picture of all the aspects of dealing with Fife Council as a funder as well as looking at wider funding issues. If you are interested in attending, then please contact our Network Support Officer at douglas.mclellan@cvsfife.org or on 01592 414587.



10

New Mental Health Group

For those of you who attended the Voluntary Sector Health & Wellbeing Forum meetings held at the end of 2005 you will remember that there were a number of Mental Health issues that came up for discussion, particularly the review of Mental Health service provision in Fife being undertaken by Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth Community Health Partnership. Voluntary Sector representatives attending the Forum meetings in Dunfermline & West Fife and Glenrothes and North East Fife were keen to establish how they could become involved in this review.

In response, Jim Bett, the Chair of the Voluntary Sector Kirkcaldy & Levenmouth Health & Wellbeing Forum, hosted a meeting for representatives of all voluntary organisations interested in joining a new Sub-Group to address mental health issues. This meeting was held on 25th January with over 40 people attending. This Voluntary Sector Mental Health Sub-Group agreed that it should seek representation on the overall Review Group, as well as support existing voluntary sector representatives who sit on the Mental Health Services Implementation Group.

This Group has agreed to meet on a regular basis and if you wish to join please contact CVS Fife's Network Support Officer Douglas McLellan at douglas.mclellan@cvsfife.org or on 01592 414587.

Health & Wellbeing Forums Joint Meeting

We are pleased to invite you to the next meeting of the Voluntary Sector Health & Wellbeing Forums in Fife. When the Forums were created, it was felt that once a year all three Forums should meet as one, and this joint meeting is planned to take place on Monday 20th March 2006 at 1.30pm at the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes. This event will be an opportunity for the members of all the Forums to meet, network and discuss common issues.

The format will be similar to previous Forum meetings with presentations from the Community Health Partnership Representatives, discussion about various issues, ideas for further development and possibly a guest speaker!

We also feel that this will be an ideal opportunity for you, the Forum members, to promote yourselves and the services that you offer. Given that the venue is Rothes Halls, we have space for stalls that can be used to inform others of who you are and what you do. As members of all three of the Forums will be there, this will be a useful opportunity for organisations to promote themselves and raise awareness of their activities. If you wish to have a free stall, please contact Douglas McLellan, Network Support Officer, to discuss it.

If you are interested in attending this event please contact douglas.mclellan@cvsfife.org or telephone 01592 414587.



Volunteer Centre Fife Conference: Opening Doors

This conference on Thursday 16th March is aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of those who manage volunteers, whether in a paid or unpaid capacity. Setting the scene and providing a motivating start to the morning will be keynote speaker Helen Rorrison, Chief Officer, VONEF.

What's on Offer?

- An inspirational kick start to a day of professional development
- Attend one workshop from a choice of six
- Participate in round table discussions on hot topics
- Find out the latest information about the new Lottery Funding from CVS Fife
- An opportunity for networking over lunch at the Market Place
- An opportunity to raise the profile of your organisation—bring along your display stands and promotional material
- An opportunity to meet and join the Volunteer Managers' Network

Places are limited so early booking is advisable. Workshops will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Every effort will be made to accommodate your first choice of workshop. In the event of over-subscription, names will be placed on a waiting list. Contact Carol Burns on 01592 410229 for a booking form.

Big Lottery Fund: Investing in Ideas Fund

The new Big Lottery Fund scheme, Investing in Ideas, is now open for applications. £4.6 million is available to develop ideas that could become fully-fledged projects. Grant amounts will range from £500 to £5,000 (with the intention of raising this top limit to £10,000 in time), and the type of activity Investing in Ideas will support will include:

- market research
- feasibility studies
- business planning
- training for your committee
- community consultation
- professional advice
- exchange visits in the UK to see how other projects work
- technical reports and scheme design studies



Ideas must fit within one of the four investment areas identified by the Big Lottery as priorities, but it is a fund aimed at testing out and strengthening project ideas, rather than supporting the projects themselves. The BLF investment areas are:

- Growing Community Assets
- Life Transitions
- Dynamic Inclusive Society
- Supporting 21st Century Life

Further details: See the website: www.biglottery.org.uk or call 0870 240 2391.

Fife Excellence Awards

2006 is the first year that Fife Partnership has run the Excellence Awards for all staff teams across Fife's Community Planning partners. During Stage 1, 129 applications were submitted from a range of partners, including voluntary organisations. 45 applications have now been short listed to go forward to the second stage of the awards, and a number of voluntary organisations are involved in applications which are proceeding to the next round of judging. Short listed teams will have until March 10th to complete a Stage 2 application, and an external judging panel will then narrow down the applications to 18 finalists. The award winners will be announced at an awards dinner held at the Rothes Halls in June.

Good luck to all of the voluntary organisations involved in making Stage 2 applications, and thanks to everyone who made the effort to submit an application. Watch this space for further updates as the Excellence Awards progress.

In It Together - Review

Sadly our Communities Scotland funded "In It Together" project is drawing to a close, and to celebrate its success and share our learning we are holding a Review Day on:

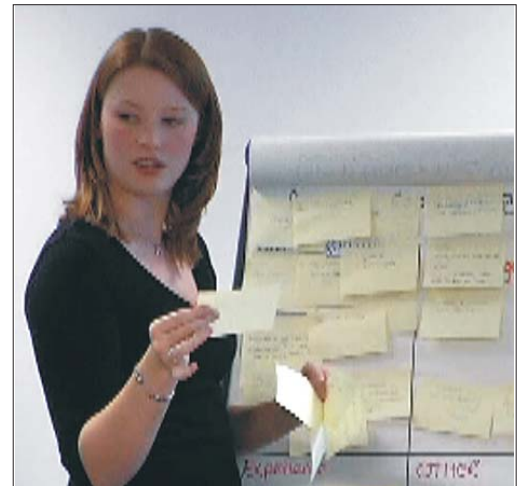
Monday 20th March

10am – 12.30 followed by lunch

**Rothes Halls
Glenrothes**

The project has been concerned with informing the voluntary sector about Community Planning and what it actually means for voluntary and community organisations, and subsequently encouraging engagement in community planning processes.

Our focus during the project has been on the Fife Voluntary Sector Children's Forum and the Voluntary Sector Health and Wellbeing Forums. We have spread the word on these forums and encouraged Board and Committee members to become involved or at least keep-up-to-date with their progress, whilst also trying to connect the forums into other agencies and create joint working opportunities.



Our Community Planning Animateur, Kirsty Dawson (pictured above), who has been employed by the project for almost two years, said: "Throughout the life of the project I have met many wonderful and interesting people, all of whom have played a vital part in the progress that the project has made. The Review Day will provide the project with an opportunity to say a thank you and goodbye to all these people and hopefully also provide a fantastic networking opportunity."

If you would like to join us on the day please contact CVS Fife for a booking form on 01592 414588.

Promote Your Events on the CVS Fife Website - www.cvsfife.org

Over the past couple of months we have been busy adding some new content to the CVS Fife website

News & Events

This section is regularly updated and you can advertise your community events, job adverts and other items of interest on our site for free. There is a form on the Events page that you can complete online to send us details of your events. Our website generates a considerable number of hits, so take advantage and get yourself some **free publicity!**

FAQs

Frequently asked questions are available for a wide variety of topics including: governance; funding; HR; events planning and IT.

Staff Profiles

Pages dedicated to some of the services provided by CVS Fife staff, including:

- Community Planning
- Governance & Compliance
- Network Support
- Information Services
- Computers and Communications

Events Form

Add your community events

This is a free service offered by CVS Fife to allow community groups and voluntary organisations in Fife to promote their events on the CVS Fife website. Please view our [terms and conditions](#) before using this service. Note - boxes marked with an * must be completed.

* Event:	<input type="text"/>
* Venue:	<input type="text"/>
* Date(s):	<input type="text"/>
* Time:	<input type="text"/>
Organisation:	<input type="text"/>
Contact:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>
Phone:	<input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>
Web:	<input type="text"/>
Display:	<input type="radio"/> All contact details <input type="radio"/> Name, phone and email <input type="radio"/> Name and phone <input type="radio"/> Name and email <input type="radio"/> No contact details
* Description of the event:	

Smoke Free Zone

The Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Prohibition of Smoking in Certain Premises (Scotland) Regulations 2006 come into effect on 26 March at 6am. The new law is being introduced to save lives and prevent diseases caused by passive smoking.

The law prohibits smoking in certain public places which are 'wholly or substantially enclosed', including the majority of workplaces. It will be an offence to smoke in no smoking premises or to knowingly permit smoking in no smoking premises. Vehicles used for business purposes will also be affected by the law. These include light and heavy goods vehicles, and public transport such as taxis, buses, trains and ferries, but exclude cars (private or company-owned).

The ban has significant implications for voluntary and community organisations, since as well as the vast majority of workplaces being affected by it, halls used for social and recreational purposes, conference centres, public halls, club premises, educational premises and public worship premises are all covered by the ban. Certain exemptions have been made to allow designated smoking rooms in adult care homes, adult hospices and psychiatric units or hospitals.



NO SMOKING

26 March 2006

Many smokers may view this as an ideal opportunity to stop smoking and there are services available in Fife to help people who really want to stop smoking. Do you want to find out more about stopping smoking? NHS Fife smoking cessation

services are available to help. The first step is getting in touch. The numbers are listed below. Just give them a call. You need to be registered with a GP in Fife to use these services.

North East Fife: 01337 830398 ext 236

Glenrothes: 01592 761896

Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth: 01592 715213

Dunfermline: 01383 565464

West Fife: 01383 565340

Your GP surgery or local pharmacy can also offer support to help you on the road to quitting.

In addition, if you are an employer, Scotland's Health at Work can offer assistance with developing smoke-free policies, building health promoting opportunities in the workplace and recognising your activities with an award!

If you are interested in learning more, contact: Joanne Roddam or Shirley Ballingall on 01592 226486.



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