

CVS Fife Newsletter

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New Project Launched in Levenmouth

CVS Fife's new partnership project with Volunteer Centre Fife, "Community Action in Levenmouth", was officially launched on 22nd August at Buckhaven Community Centre. The launch event, hosted by project funders Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland as part of the Foundation's 21st Birthday celebrations, gave new Resource Worker Cindy Mills the opportunity to meet some local representatives and for the project partners to outline the potential benefits of the new project. The pictures show the official handover of the cheque from the Foundation to CVS Fife and Volunteer Centre Fife, and the plaque which was presented to CVS Fife.

The project aims to link up with existing voluntary and community organisations in the Levenmouth area to ensure they are accessing the services they require, whether it be development services from CVS Fife in relation to areas such as Start-Up, Governance, HR, Funding Support or ICT, or volunteering services in relation to enhancing volunteering opportunities or volunteer management. Cindy is also aiming to recruit a number of first-time volunteers, as well as connecting with those who may have dropped out of volunteering.



If you would like to meet Cindy and discuss how she might assist your organisation, group or potential volunteer, please get in touch with her at the Buckhaven Office or email Cindy.Mills@cvsfife.org.



Voluntary Sector Manifesto Update

Is your voluntary organisation concerned about the longer-term future of its funding agreements? Would you like to improve your relationship with your Link Officer or change the way in which your Service Level Agreement is renewed? Do you have views on Voluntary Sector Engagement or Partnership Working?

If so, please sign up for the next Voluntary Sector Manifesto event at the Rothes Halls on Friday 29th September (9.30am-12.30pm). This is a unique opportunity for the voluntary sector in Fife to shape and influence all aspects of its relationship with Fife Council - your views really do count!

The aim of the Voluntary Sector Manifesto is to encourage as many of the political groupings as possible to incorporate its content into their own manifestos for the 2007 elections, thereby endorsing it and committing to its implementation.

The first Voluntary Sector Consultation Event was held on 4th July and was well attended by a cross-section of the sector. Attendees participated in a series of workshops designed to draw out broad, key themes as potential content for the manifesto, focussing largely on voluntary organisations' relationship with Fife Council. Some such themes which could potentially form the content of the manifesto include that of Full-Cost Recovery, as well as an agreement that 3% of a total funding award should be directed towards staff training. A full report from this event is available on the CVS Fife website at www.cvsfife.org/manifesto - any comments or

suggestions on its content or on the manifesto process are welcomed.

As part of the manifesto development process, CVS Fife and its Consultative Group have also been engaged in an on-going dialogue with local political groupings. Meetings were held with representatives of various political parties throughout early summer, with all those involved expressing their commitment to the proposed process. A second round of meetings will be held shortly to advise the political groupings of the key themes emerging from the first voluntary sector consultation event. It is hoped that this dialogue with political parties will result in a greater commitment to the manifesto by highlighting and resolving any major conflicts at an early stage.

Please email us at manifesto@cvsfife.org to book your place at the next voluntary sector consultation event and have your say!

If you have any further queries on the Voluntary Sector Manifesto, please contact Douglas McLellan or Laura Allan at CVS Fife on 01592 41 4588.

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Local Authority Elections 2007

In May 2007 there will be Local Authority elections to elect Councillors to Fife Council. However, this election will be unlike any other held before in Scotland. It will have an effect on the variety of people elected as Councillors, as well as resulting in all voluntary and community organisations in Fife having at least three Councillors representing their area of operation.

The Local Government Act has changed the way Scottish councillors will be elected. From May 2007, they will be elected using the Single Transferable Vote electoral system (STV) - a form of proportional representation (PR). The introduction of the single transferable vote electoral system will lead to two major changes in the way that local democracy is delivered in Scotland.

Firstly, there will be new electoral areas that will replace the existing council wards. These new wards will be larger in size, and from 2007 voters will elect either three or four councillors to represent them instead of one as before.

The second difference for local government elections in 2007 relates to the way electors cast their vote. Under the new STV system, voters mark their ballot paper to show the order in which they want candidates to

be elected. Instead of using the traditional cross to mark their ballot paper, voters should mark their first choice with a '1', their second choice '2' and so on. Voters may mark just one preference or as many preferences as there are candidates. Marking candidates in order of preference means that if your first choice is not elected then your vote may be transferred to your second choice and so on until all your preferences are exhausted or until all seats are filled.

So what does this mean for the voluntary sector? It will mean that in many parts of Fife there will be local Councillors from different parties representing the same area. Some of these Councillors will be form part of a ruling Administration and others will form the Opposition. Given that the voluntary sector generally has strong partnership links with Fife Council, and that the Council is one of the primary

funders of the sector in Fife, it is important that voluntary sector organisations maintain positive relationships with all of their Councillors.

The Voluntary Sector Manifesto will, hopefully, play a part in developing those relationships. By meeting with all the political groupings and encouraging them to endorse the manifesto will result in a stronger position for the voluntary sector once the new Administration is formed in terms of Council policy developments. In addition to this, by getting involved at this stage and having a dialogue we are fostering a greater understanding of the voluntary sector amongst the political groupings in Fife. It is important that as many voluntary sector organisations take part in this dialogue.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2006

A NIGHT AT THE OSCARS

As part of the CSV Make a Difference Day celebrations, Volunteer Centre Fife is holding its annual Volunteer of the Year Award Ceremony on Thursday 26 October 2006 at the Parkway Hotel in Kirkcaldy.

Volunteer Centre Fife is very pleased to announce that the event is being sponsored again by BSKyB in Dunfermline.

This is your chance to nominate your volunteer(s) to show your appreciation for all their hard work and commitment and to give them some much-deserved recognition.

This year we are using the theme of '**A Night at the Oscars**'. A fun packed evening is planned, kicking off at 6.30pm with a special guest speaker who will give an entertaining talk about recognising and valuing the contribution our volunteers make before leading on to the main and enjoyable event of the evening – the award ceremony itself.

There will be plenty of opportunities to win prizes at our pub quiz with prizes being donated by local organisations.

A light finger buffet will be provided and the evening will include some fabulous live entertainment by **State of Emergency** (YMCA Music Group). Ending officially at 10.00pm, a bar and dance floor will also be available for those of you who want to kick up your heels and celebrate in style!

Nomination forms will be going out during September. The deadline for nominations is 6 Friday October 2006.

This really is a worthwhile event. Please do join us in our celebration of the people who really make a difference to all of our communities.

For further information and a nomination form contact Val McDowall on 01592 412369.



Funding the Future

Funding remains THE hot topic in the voluntary sector. CVS Fife can work with organisations to identify potential funding sources to support their work, and also assist with the development of applications, giving advice on issues such as eligibility, the outcome approach and planning for grant management. Here's an update on some of the opportunities around at the moment, but these are just a small selection. Contact CVS Fife if you'd like some support with funding issues.



Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund launched its new funding programmes early in May. With the introduction of the Outline Proposal Form, voluntary organisations have the opportunity to outline their project idea first, and get feedback within ten days as to whether their project idea is something that can go forward to a full application. The key thing to focus on when doing the proposal is the outcomes of your work. What difference does it make to the people you work with? Here are some examples of the kinds of projects the Big Lottery Fund expects to fund under each of its programmes:

- ★ **Supporting 21st Century Life:** This programme will fund projects that bring people together, create understanding and encourage a forward-looking approach, e.g:
 - Volunteering, mentoring, befriending
 - Support for parenting
 - Play activities that bring different generations together
 - Using technology to overcome isolation and exclusion
- ★ **Life Transitions:** This programme will support people at the times of change in their lives, especially young people, those over 50, people out of training or work and people moving on from addiction issues or debt, e.g.:
 - Advice, advocacy and tailored support to help people access services
 - Skills development, esp. basic and softer skills
 - Supported employment projects and volunteering
 - Financial literacy, debt counselling
 - Health and wellbeing projects, esp. around self-esteem

These are just examples of the type of work the Big Lottery Fund expects to support via these programmes. Other options also exist within the Growing Community Assets and Dynamic, Inclusive Communities strands for voluntary organisations to bid for funding. For further information, see the website: www.biglottery.org.uk

Coalfields Regeneration Trust

The CRT currently has funds to allocate by March of 2008. A large number of wards in Fife are eligible for Coalfields funding, for guidance contact the Trust direct or call us at CVS Fife. Pauline Douglas, the new Regeneration Manager for the Fife and Central area is keen to hear from voluntary and community organisations with project ideas – the small grants programme, Bridging the Gap, can offer amounts between £500 and £10,000, and the Main Grants range from over £10,000 to £100,000. The Trust funds under the following themes:

- Supporting Communities
- Learning Communities
- Enterprising Communities
- Supporting People into Work

CRT is based in Alloa, and can be contacted on 01259 272127. Jean Cowie deals with applications to the small grants programme, for main grants ask for Pauline Douglas.

HBoS Foundation: Community Action Programme

- The Foundation provides small grants of up to £10,000 to support a range of projects under the following themes:
- Developing and improving local communities
- Money advice and financial literacy

See the website or give us a call for more information:
www.hbosfoundation.org/community_action.htm

Charity Law Update

Following on from the Charity Law information sessions run by CVS Fife throughout June, a 'checklist' has now been developed as a tool to assess the extent to which voluntary organisations are complying with the new legislation. It is anticipated that a member of CVS Fife staff would use this checklist in a discussion with an organisation's management and board members to identify areas of strength as well as highlighting areas which need further development in order to meet the minimum requirements outlined in the Act.

This new tool is currently being piloted with a small number of voluntary organisations but it is hoped that the service will be rolled out across Fife in the near future. Please contact Caron Hughes, Governance/Compliance Adviser, or Laura Allan, Development Officer, for further details on 01592 414 588 or:

caron.hughes@cvsfife.org or
laura.allan@cvsfife.org

CVS Fife Directory of Organisations website

You may have noticed that CVS Fife is currently undertaking a survey to examine the possibility of producing a printed Directory of Organisations. But are you aware of the online Directory and just how much information it contains?

Each organisation has its own page, including live email, links back to their home page and Google maps for directions.

Organisations can easily be found using the alphabetical listings or our search engine but you can also find them grouped under:

Category Lists: there are more than 80 category sections – these show an alphabetical listing with basic address details – click on the title of any organisation for a page of further information,

Town Lists: as above but you can find out which organisations are operating within specific areas of Fife

There are more than 700 organisations in our database but only 420 have allowed us to list them online (Share with the Public). **Some of you are missing out on free promotion.**

- ★ The Directory is the most visited and used section of our website
- ★ The Directory is listed with all of the major search engines and many that you may never even have heard of!
- ★ Links from CVS Fife to your site will help raise your site's ranking with the search engines
- ★ If a printed Directory is produced, any organisations listed on the website will be included

We won't add your details to our website without your permission – but contact us if you'd like to be added and we will make your details live. If your organisation is not in our database, you can download a form from www.cvsfife.org or call us and we will send you a form. **...you may want to check that your organisation is listed on our site!**

The screenshot shows the CVS Fife website interface. At the top, there's a navigation menu with links like Home, About Us, Services, Information, Funding, Training, News & Events, and Search Our Site. Below this is a 'Directory of Organisations' section with a search bar and a list of categories (A-Z). The main content area displays the details for 'Mobus Community Transport', including its address (Wellesley Road, Aberhill, Leven, KY8 3AB), contact information (T: 01333 429000, F: 01333 429066, E: mobus@tiscali.co.uk, W: www.mobus.org), and a Google Maps link. To the right, there's a 'Categories' list with columns for various services like Advice, Advocacy, Animal Welfare, etc.

Staff Update



As you'll have seen from our front page, CVS Fife has welcomed a new member of staff over the summer period. Cindy Mills, Resource Worker for the Community Action in Levenmouth Project, is based at CVS Fife's office in Buckhaven and will work between CVS Fife and Volunteer Centre Fife. She is already working away in the area to provide support to anyone who is thinking about volunteering, as well as offering assistance to community groups that need a boost and giving larger organisations the opportunity to consider any support needs they may have.

Cindy will already be known to some, having worked at one stage at the Volunteer Bureau based in Lower Methil, and more recently with Next Steps in a training capacity, as well as volunteering with organisations such as the Drug & Alcohol Project Levenmouth. She already has a number of contacts in Levenmouth, and is looking forward to making many more over the coming months.

CVS Fife Website Update

- ★ Online Survey - What is the demand for a printed Directory of Organisations?
- ★ Financial Services
- ★ Development Officer
- ★ Community Action Levenmouth
- ★ Voluntary Sector Manifesto site
- ★ Sign up for CVS Fife e-Bulletins
- ★ Community Regeneration Video
- ★ Several new IT tips



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