

CVS Fife News

Digital Fife wins SustainIT National eWell-Being Award

The ground-breaking Digital Fife project, which has helped over a hundred community groups to set up their own websites, has won a major innovation award.

Digital Fife has received a SustainIT National eWell-Being Award for 'Inclusion Through Partnership and Innovation'.



Lyndsay Macadam and Sheena Watson

The awards, run by sustainable development charity UK CEED (UK Centre for Economic & Environmental Development), give national

recognition to the organisations doing the most to improve people's lives and the environment through the imaginative use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT). The judges considered the Digital Fife project to be: "An affordable and flexible solution, allowing small organisations to take control of their own web content without needing to use web design companies or complex web design software."

Sheena Watson, Project Manager, said "It's great news for the project to receive this national award. The WebSpringer technology which we use for the project allows small community groups to make the most of the opportunities available via the internet without needing any specialist skills. The informal approach the project takes means that we can reach many

people who would not necessarily normally get involved with ICT or learning opportunities. This current phase of the project, which is funded by Community Regeneration Funding, is allowing us to focus our efforts on regeneration communities in Fife, demonstrating to these communities the doors which ICT can open for them." CVS Fife continues to work as a partner within the Digital Fife project, and new staff member Lyndsay Macadam is now providing development support alongside Sheena Watson. For further details on the project, see the website:

www.digitalfife.com



Training Project - Award Success

Adam Smith College's partnership with CVS Fife has won national recognition at the first ever TFN Annual Charity Awards.

The awards, designed to recognise excellence across Scotland's Voluntary Sector, were conferred at a prestigious ceremony hosted by Ruth Wishart at Glasgow Science Centre on 24 May. The College scooped the award along with CVS Fife in the Partnership

category, against some tough competition from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde with Glasgow CVS and Harper McLeod with the National Autistic Society Scotland.

At a time when CVS Fife is planning for the future of the project, the award has come as a great boost, particularly to project staff Ian Cowie and Sandra Bruce. The new programme carrying details of courses up until the end of the year is now available. Please contact Ian or Sandra if you'd like to book places or discuss any aspect of our training provision.

See the July-December Training Programme for more details.



Bryan Poole, Ian Cowie, Brian Moonlight, Carol Humbert and Carole Patrick

From 1st July CVS Fife telephone numbers change to:
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Fundraising Standards Board Pilot Project

The Fife pilot project for the Fundraising Standards Board, unique in Scotland, was launched on 6th March at an event attended by over 70 representatives of Fife charities, voluntary organisations and community groups.

Lyndsay Macadam is the new project worker for the pilot, a partnership between CVS Fife and VONEF, which aims to raise awareness of the Fundraising Standards Board Membership Scheme amongst the voluntary sector in Fife.

By joining the Fundraising Standards Board, which operates the self-regulatory scheme for fundraising across the UK, voluntary organisations commit to being open and fair, honest and legal in their fundraising activity and are sending a clear message to the public that they can give with confidence to good causes.

During 2007/2008, Lyndsay will be visiting voluntary organisations throughout Fife to explain the benefits of the scheme and encourage Fife's voluntary sector to be at the forefront of best practice in fundraising.

A section dedicated to providing information on the membership scheme has been added to the CVS Fife website. This includes a page of 'Frequently Asked



Questions', which should help explain any queries you may have, and links to the Codes of Fundraising Practice and Fundraising Promise which members of the Fundraising Standards Board pledge to adhere to.

Local groups who have already joined include Fife Cancer Network, Fife Society for the Blind, World at Your Feet, Fife Coaching Academy, Arden House Projects, Peace Village School Trust and CVS Fife and VONEF. Look out for the tick logo on their websites and

leaflets, which acts as kitemark of quality, reassuring donors that these organisations engage in best practice in fundraising.

If your organisation is involved in any kind of fundraising, from organising collections and fundraising events to receiving membership fees or goods and services in kind, and you are interested in finding out more about the Fundraising Standards Board, please contact Lyndsay Macadam at CVS Fife.

Volunteer Profile

Ruth Miller, a volunteer with L.O.S.T. and L.I.N.K.

I had some free time on my hands when my youngest child started nursery and wanted to do something to get me back into the land of the living. Volunteering was never something that I had ever thought about but I have found that it has been a great way to meet new people and try new things while helping others.

The thought of going back into the workplace after being away from it for so long is quite daunting and this is a great way to gain hands on experience for the work I would like to get into as well as getting back onto touch again. There is no pressure so I can give what I can when I can which fits in with my busy family life.

Ruth volunteered through the **Community Action in Levenmouth Project**. Contact Cindy Mills at CVS Fife or visit our website for more information.



Employment Law Update

During 2005/6, as part of its Capacity Building Project, CVS Fife employed an HR Adviser. As well as providing guidance to individual voluntary organisations, the Adviser contributed to this newsletter and the website, updating the sector in Fife with key developments. With funding for the HR Adviser post having come to an end, CVS Fife has been looking at other methods to assist voluntary organisations to keep up-to-date with significant changes to Employment Law. As we have still been receiving a number of enquiries in the area of HR, it is clear that there is still a demand for a service of some kind.

To that end, we have set up a meeting for 25 June, where two HR consultancies will outline the services they can offer to voluntary organisations. These services are fee-based, but they will allow those who attend to get a flavour of what is available, and hopefully encourage people to think about how they would deal with an HR issue within their organisation. As a number of areas within Employment Law have changed recently, including Maternity, Paternity and Adoption Leave and Pay, and changes are expected to statutory Annual Leave later in the year, it is important that any organisation employing staff has considered how it can keep up to date with changes in Employment Law.

If a fee-based HR service is beyond the means of your organisation at the present time, there are a number of websites that provide helpful guidance:

- ★ Sandy Adirondack (author of Voluntary Sector Legal Handbook), www.sandy-a.co.uk
- ★ ACAS, www.acas.org.uk, good for basic summaries to help employers implement new legislation
- ★ Directgov, Employment section, www.direct.gov.uk, lots of information on terms & conditions, rights of part-time, sessional and fixed-term employees

Voluntary Sector Health & Wellbeing Forums

Following the recent requests for nominations for the role of the Voluntary Sector Community Health Partnership Representative there were two nominations for Dunfermline & West Fife and one nomination for Glenrothes & North East Fife. The single nomination for Glenrothes & North East Fife was the current representative Isobel Wilson from Leonard Cheshire so she was re-elected unopposed. The two nominations for the Dunfermline & West Fife CHP Representative were Jessie Roberts from PAMIS and Linda Jenkins from Fife Action on Autism. A ballot paper and personal statement were sent to all Health & Wellbeing Forum Members and Jessie Roberts was re-elected to serve a second term. Thanks to both Jessie and Linda for taking part in the election.

The next round of Health & Wellbeing Forum meetings will take place on the following dates:

- ★ June 26th for the Glenrothes & North East Fife
- ★ June 28th for the Dunfermline & West Fife
- ★ July 2nd for the Kirkcaldy & Levenmouth Forum

Guest speakers have yet to be finalised but will include Keith Vandermotten from Fife Council who will be talking at every forum about the NEET Agenda for Fife (Not in Employment, Education or Training).

This is a key focus area for the Scottish Executive and Fife Council in the coming years. Dr Margaret Hannah will give a presentation about her Choose Life work at the Dunfermline & West Fife Forum and again at the other forums after the summer.

Also, CVS Fife has introduced a new section on its website under the Health banner - www.cvsfife.org/health. This section will not only contain information about the forums but also about the new Joint Health Improvement Plan, links to other Health resources like www.healthyfife.net and papers being put to the new Social Work & Health Committee of the Council. If there are

other resources relating to your work that you would like to see on the website, please contact Douglas McLellan or Ron Smith at CVS Fife to discuss.

The Health & Wellbeing Forums rely on the participation of voluntary organisations - these are your forums if your organisation is involved in health and/or wellbeing related work. Please take the time to get involved in the meetings and let us know what topic areas you would like to see covered in the future. If you have any other suggestions around how the forums could be improved, we'd like to hear from you.

New Council

Following the elections in May, we now have a new elected membership of Fife Council. There are 78 Councillors spread across 23 Wards. Each Ward has 3 or 4 Councillors, often from two or more political parties. The Council Administration is currently a coalition between the Scottish National Party and the Liberal Democrats. However, the largest single party is the Labour Party. The new Council has changed some of its decision-making processes and committees.

There are now nine Strategic Committees and seven Area Committees. The Strategic Committees are a mix between new decision and policy making committees and those required by statute. The new decision and policy making committees are:

- Education & Children's Services
- Social Work & Health
- Policy & Finance
- Housing & Communities
- Environment & Transport

Committees with a more formal regulatory role are:

- Planning
- Standards & Audits
- Regulation & Licensing
- Police, Fire & Safety

The remits for these committees have yet to be fully agreed.

The seven Area Committees are an attempt by the Council to devolve more decision making powers to local areas for local decisions.

The seven committees are:

- West Fife & Coastal Villages, Rosyth & Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay
- Dunfermline
- The Lochs, Cowdenbeath, Lochgelly and Cardenden
- Kirkcaldy, Burntisland & Kinghorn
- Glenrothes, Kinglassie, Leslie, Markinch and Thornton
- Leven, Kennoway, Largo, Buckhaven, Methil & Wemyss Villages
- Howe of Fife & Tay Coast, Tay Bridgehead, St. Andrews East Neuk & Landward & Cupar

Again, the remits for these committees has yet to be fully agreed but they will have some control over local budgets and local priorities so will be important to the voluntary sector.

For more information about the new Council visit:

www.fife.gov.uk
and
www.cvsfife.org

Workforce Plus and NEET Agenda

The publication last year of the Scottish Executive's Workforce Plus Employability Framework and the allied NEET Strategy (referring to young people aged 16-19 not in education, employment or training) has opened up opportunities for the voluntary sector to maximise the role it can play in helping those who want to work access employment opportunities.

In working towards implementing the strategies, the Executive has asked local authority areas to conduct a mapping exercise, identifying the agencies and projects already providing employability support as well as looking at agencies and sectors that potentially have a role to play. As part of that work in Fife, CVS Fife will be using its database of voluntary organisations to identify organisations already directly contributing to the Workforce Plus/ NEET agenda as well as those who have the potential to do so in terms of the client group they engage with. We will also be working to raise awareness of this agenda with the sector in the coming months. Keep an eye out for email bulletins with further details - there will also be some input into some of the forthcoming voluntary sector forum meetings.

Primetime Programme Launched

The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland has launched a new programme aimed at the over-50s. The programme is being run in conjunction with BBC Scotland, so shortlisted applications will have the opportunity to be showcased on television.



The BLF is planning to support six projects following a viewer's vote. Closing date for outline proposals is 24 August 2007. For further details on the programme, see the website: www.biglottery.org.uk



CVS Fife e-Bulletin Service

We introduced the e-bulletin service just over a year ago in May 2006. At that time we had 320 subscribers - that list has now grown to 580. There have been over 50,000 email messages sent to subscribers, covering a wide range of topics and highlighting issues affecting the voluntary sector in Fife, including:

- ★ Weekly updates on Training Courses
- ★ Updates for the Health & Well-being and Children's Forums
- ★ Funding news and information
- ★ New services such as the Fundraising Standards Board Pilot Project and our Volunteering Project
- ★ Fife Council funding cuts to voluntary organisations
- ★ Community Health Partnership elections

If you would like to be added to our list of subscribers, please register your email address through our website: www.cvsfife.org (there's a link on the home page) or call us on 01592 567001

If there are other topics or issues that you think we should be covering in our e-Bulletins, please let us know.

Budget Cuts Campaign

Most of you will be aware that since the end of March, CVS Fife has been working with voluntary organisations affected by budget cuts administered by Fife Council's Social Work Service to raise awareness of the serious implications of these cuts and to call for a reconsideration of the decision to make the cuts. The campaign led to a number of meetings with political groupings, and the new SNP/Liberal Democrat Administration has now made a commitment to recommend that the budget cuts be reinstated at the 2 August Policy, Finance & Asset Management Committee meeting.

The budget cuts caused a considerable outcry, not just amongst affected voluntary organisations, but also amongst their clients and members of public. CVS Fife responded to calls from affected organisations to assist them to challenge not just the budget cuts, but also the manner in which they were implemented, less than two weeks away from a new financial year, with no warning or explanation given. While the resulting campaign has brought its challenges, we believe that now that a mechanism has been established for regular dialogue between the Voluntary Sector and the Social Work Service, we are on track for a more constructive relationship in the future.

Lyndsay Joins the Team



A new member of staff has joined the team at CVS Fife. Lyndsay Macadam took up the post of Fundraising Standards Board Project Worker at the end of March, and has already been out and about meeting voluntary organisations and raising awareness of her role. As the Fundraising Standards Board project is being delivered jointly with VONEF, Lyndsay is based in CVS Fife's office in Buckhaven but is also spending half a day per week in the VONEF office in Cupar (for more details on the project, see the article on page 2).

Lyndsay lives in Fife but had been working with CVS Stirling prior to joining CVS Fife, so she is enjoying working closer to home. As well as leading the Fundraising Standards Board pilot project, Lyndsay is also doing some work with the Digital Fife project, so her skills are much in demand! She is looking forward to meeting many more of you in the sector over the coming year.

CVS Fife Website Update

- ★ Health Section - including Joint Health Improvement Plan, updated Forums and CHP section
- ★ Fundraising Standards Board Pilot Project
- ★ Fife Voluntary Sector Manifesto - final report

Remember to promote your events, news and vacancies on our website!

www.cvsfife.org



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