

South Bucks District Council Chairman's Community & Volunteering Award 2009

This years South Bucks District Councils Chairman's Community and Volunteering Awards will be taking place on 25th November 2009. The awards are aimed at recognising the contribution of individuals and groups in promoting and supporting community activities around the South Bucks District.

The six award categories for young people (age range 11-19 years) are:

- Sports Activator
- Keen to be Green
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Where There's a Will There's a Way
- Going the Extra Mile
- Finding the Funds
- Chairman's Special Award

Young people need to be acknowledged for the amazing things they do, whether it be caring for the elderly or helping the environment in some way and these Awards are one way of recognising them.

Copies of the nomination form are available on the South Bucks District Council's website or by contacting Claire Speirs on 01895 837209.

**All nominations must be returned by 2nd
October 2009.**



South Bucks
District Council

SAVE THE DATE MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2009

In partnership with the Safer Network, Youth Focus is presenting a morning workshop on the Vetting and Barring Scheme, at Green Park Centre, with input from the Home Office. This will be a sub-regional event open to voluntary organisations that work with children, young people and vulnerable adults in Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. More information will be sent out shortly to Youth Focus members.

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Registered Charity No. 290094 Funded by Buckinghamshire County Council

Youth Focus 'Building the Trust 2009' Conference Safeguarding Children and Young People

Working in partnership with the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust, Youth Focus ran a conference on Safeguarding Children and Young People on 13th May 2009, at the Green Park Centre.

The conference was attended by over 90 delegates, with the majority representing a wide range of voluntary organisations, from those based in the community to large national bodies. Donald McPhail, Independent Chair of the BSCB gave the opening address and Kevin Garrod, Regional Development Manager, Children England/VCS Engage provided an update on the new National Third Sector Safeguarding Unit. Pat Stappard, Senior Human Resources Officer introduced the Independent Safeguarding Authority and gave an overview of the requirements for safe employment practices.

Steps Drama presented two lively and interactive training sessions on Safer Employment and Managing Allegations against staff and volunteers, which were well received and the Local Area Designated Officers explained their roles and how these relate to the voluntary sector.

Afternoon Workshops focussed on the new Vetting and Barring Scheme, further details on Managing Allegations, Integrated Processes including the Common Assessment Framework and Commissioning and Contracts.

The event was closed by Sue Imbriano, Director of Children's Services. Delegates found the day very relevant to their organisations and the conference provided a valuable opportunity for the voluntary sector to explore the importance of safeguarding.

VETTING AND BARRING SCHEME (VBS) UPDATE

The new guidance on the VBS, which will include guidance for the voluntary sector, is still to be issued and is due out any time now. For the latest information that we have on this please go to page 4 of this Newsletter or check the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board website: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk for new updates.



Family Information Service (FIS)

Is your organisation registered with the Family Information Service?
What are the advantages to you?
How do you register?

The Buckinghamshire FIS is a new service, available from October 2009, so that every family member and professional working with families can find the information and advice they need. It will expand the scope of Buckinghamshire Children's Information Service to include the widest possible range of advice, services and activities. The service will be available through a variety of ways; telephone enquiries, website or face-to-face with staff at various locations across the county.

The new Buckinghamshire FIS website will include an on-line searchable Directory which will allow people to search for anything from sporting or leisure activities or after school clubs to parenting advice, family support networks or how to find a child-minder. It will hold contact details, information on facilities, opening times and details of any particular activities or events that are being held. It will also link to a variety of other websites for local and national information, so that no matter how you come to it, the Buckinghamshire FIS website is the first place to look for all family related queries.

It is really important that the on-line Directory holds information on as many organisations and services as possible, including voluntary organisations, so that it becomes an informative and well used resource. The FIS are encouraging all organisations to register their details with them by completing a pro forma. A copy of the form is available from Youth Focus and can also be downloaded from the Resources section of the Youth Focus website: www.youthfocus.org.uk

There are no costs to register and it will give your organisation an opportunity to promote the service and the activities that you run, to all members of the family. It will also allow you to advertise your volunteering opportunities to a wide audience.

The pro forma will only take 5-10 minutes to complete, depending on how many activities you run and how much information you wish to submit to promote your service and volunteering opportunities. Please also consider other organisations you work with and whether they would also benefit from registering their details.

If you wish to find out more about this project, please contact Sue Martin at Youth Focus to discuss.

Promoting Positive Activities Funding

Promoting Positive Activities for Young People - Funding for Voluntary Organisations

Since launching this funding opportunity in March 2008 Youth Focus have made eighteen awards totalling £7,800.00 and we still have £2,200.00 left to allocate.

The Fund is open to groups in the Voluntary and Faith sector who work with young people aged 13 – 19. Successful applicants will run a project that will enable young people to take part in a positive activity. It must be attractive in encouraging other young people who don't usually participate to get



involved, in addition to regular club members. At least 75% of the participants need to be in the 13 – 19 age range. Applications can be made for up to £500 per organisation.

One of the funding awards was made to Action4Youth, who run Female only exercise/boxing sessions for R U Safe? referrals. We received the following comment from the organiser Emily Davis:

"The sessions have been a great success and the girls who have participated have learnt self defence skills and improved their physical fitness and confidence levels."

For further details on how to apply for this funding please contact the Youth Focus office on 01296 631911 or office@youthfocus.co.uk. Details can also be found under the Funding section of the Youth Focus website www.youthfocus.org.uk

Wycombe Partnership Community Showcase 2009

The Wycombe Partnership Community Showcase Awards take place on 15th October 2009. Nominations for the six awards, which include Community Volunteering and Young Community Champion need to be submitted by 28th August 2009.

Find out more at www.wycombe.gov.uk/communityshowcase

Youth Focus Training Day

Youth Focus Training Day

Saturday 14th November 2009

We will be running the following Full Day Courses at a cost of £15.00 per head including lunch:-

Emergency Aid (certificated)

This is a certificated course with an assessment covering breathing and circulation, personal safety (assessing the incident), priorities (ABC check and sending for help), unconscious casualty, rescue breathing, CPR, choking, blood loss and shock, control of bleeding and burns.

Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (certificated)

This is a certificated course with a multiple choice examination covering legislation, food safety hazards, temperature control, refrigeration, chilling and cold holding, cooking, hot handling and reheating, food handling, principles of safe food storage, cleaning and food premises and equipment.

We will also be running two half day morning courses at a cost of £5.00 per head including coffee:

Child Protection for those working with Children and Young People

The session will cover:

- Definitions of child abuse
- Potential indicators
- Actual disclosures
- How to handle these, obviously, sensitive issues

Hear by Right” – Mapping and Planning Participation

Exploring issues that surround children and young people having a voice

The session will cover:

- A definition of participation
- Involving young people in decision making in Buckinghamshire. What do young people from Buckinghamshire say?
- Getting started with Buckinghamshire 'Hear by Right' Mapping and Planning Tool
- Working together to identify priorities for the children and young people's participation in your service / organisation

For copies of the flyer and booking form please contact the Youth Focus office on 01296 631911 or email office@youthfocus.co.uk. Copies of the flyer and booking form are also available on the Youth Focus website www.youthfocus.org.uk

Important Dates For Your Diary

Council Meetings

Monday 12th October 2009
Monday 25th January 2010
Wednesday 24th March 2010
Monday 11th October 2010

AGM

Wednesday 30th September 2009
Wednesday 16th June 2010*
Wednesday 29th September 2010*

Conference

Tuesday 11th May 2010

Training Days

Saturday 14th November 2009
Saturday 5th June 2010
Saturday 13th November 2010

* The date for the 2010 AGM will be confirmed following the 2009 AGM



‘START-UP’ FUNDING POT FOR SMALL YOUTH GROUPS/UNITS

Grants for 2009 - 2010 now available

The sum of £1,000 has been set aside from the Revenue Grant this financial year to go directly towards helping small groups and units within the Youth Focus membership to start up. Typically funding can go towards insurance costs, equipment or to cover the first few months' rental costs. The maximum grant per group/unit is £200.

Please send your applications in to the Youth Focus office. This fund runs up until the end of March 2010.

An application form can be found on the Youth Focus website www.youthfocus.org.uk or can be obtained by phoning the office on 01296 631911 or by emailing office@youthfocus.org.uk



VETTING AND BARRING SCHEME (VBS) UPDATE

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 arose from the Bichard Inquiry into the Soham murders and introduced a new Vetting and Barring Monitoring Scheme for those who wish to work or volunteer with vulnerable groups. The VBS will be run by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and is planned to be introduced on 12th October 2009. Prospective employees and volunteers will need to apply to register with the ISA.

The VBS is not intended as a replacement for current safeguarding practices and organisations will still need to carry out enhanced CRB checks .

Organisations also have a duty to refer information to the ISA where there is a concern relating to harm or the risk of harm to children or vulnerable adults. Information will be considered from different sources but child protection teams in local authorities are legally bound to report.

If there is an allegation made against a member of staff or volunteer this should be reported to the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) within 24 hours. The LADO will provide objective support and guidance in managing allegations.

From October 2009, List 99, POCA and POVA will be replaced by two ISA lists of those persons barred from working with children and vulnerable adults.

- Barring from 'regulated activities' will be introduced, which includes a much wider range of jobs and activities than before.
- It will be a criminal offence for a person on the ISA barred list to seek or undertake regulated activity and for employers to knowingly employ them. This includes volunteers.
- **From July 2010** all new entrants to roles working or volunteering with vulnerable groups and those switching jobs within these sectors will be able to register with the VBS and be checked by ISA.
- **From November 2010** it will be a legal requirement for new entrants to relevant jobs/roles to be registered on the Scheme and for employers to check the registration status of applicants before employment/engagement commences.
- All staff/volunteers to be registered by **end of June 2015**.

For full information on the anticipated phasing of the VBS and other details, please go to the Resources section of the Youth Focus website. Click on Links, followed by Public Resources and look for Background and Information – Vetting & Barring Scheme May 2009

YOUTH FOCUS AGM

Regrettably the Youth Focus AGM, due to take place on 16th June had to be postponed. The new date is:

**Wednesday 30th September at 7.30 pm
in The Coach House, Green Park Centre**

We are very pleased that **Susanne Rauprich, Chief Executive of the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS)**, has agreed to make the keynote speech. Susanne has many years of experience in supporting the voluntary youth sector and will be giving a national perspective on the challenges and changes that affect our organisations, including the proposed licensing of the young people's workforce, making volunteering less appealing in a climate where volunteers are already in short supply.

Susanne believes that Youth Work is not just a graduate profession that can be licensed. Youth work offers a way for many to take an active role in the informal education of young people and the introduction of a licensing scheme will act as a barrier to volunteers and divide the workforce. The value of effective youth work is that it is grounded in communities where people take responsibility and a share in youth work delivery. This is the strength of the voluntary youth sector. To learn more about her views and to hear what NCVYS proposes as an alternative to licensing, come along to the AGM on 30th September.

We are also pleased to once again be supporting the **David, Anne and Percy Wood Charitable Trust**, and will be presenting a cheque for £500 to a very worthy nominee who deserves recognition for his sporting achievements after overcoming considerable difficulties in his life.

Youth Focus Council Meeting – Monday 20th October 2009

Following on from the AGM, the next Council meeting will feature a discussion on the **Regulation, Registration and Licensing of the Children and Young People's Workforce**. How far will these regulations go and what will be the impact on the voluntary sector, especially those that volunteer and give their time to supporting clubs and youth groups? The Council meeting will provide you with an opportunity to learn about these proposals and to discuss what they will mean for your organisation. Watch out for further details in September.