

Issue No: 2
July 2010

Your VC

The Newsletter for RRAVS Volunteer Centre

Rayleigh, Rochford and District Association for Voluntary Service

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Opening Hours
Monday - Thursday 9.00 - 3.00 pm

Meet the VC Team:



Amanda Harris - VC Co-ordinator



Jeannette Helson - Assistant VC Co-



Feeling snowed under ?

If so, maybe we can help. We have dealt with almost 115 volunteer enquiries in the last three months, with over 30 placed in local organisations. If you would like us to help you find willing volunteers for your organisation, please give us a call.

Come along and chat to us at one of our local information clinics at libraries within Rochford District

Please see below for dates we are in your area. (All clinics will run from 10.00 – 12.00) :-

Rochford Mon 2nd August 2010

Hullbridge Thu 29th July 2010

Rayleigh Mon 12th July 2010
Mon 9th August 2010

Hockley Thu 15th July 2010
Thu 12th August 2010

Gt Wakering Mon 19th July 2010
Mon 16th August 2010

You can come and visit us to chat about volunteering or advertising your volunteering opportunities, joining RRAVS, funding advice, and the other services RRAVS provides.



VOLUNTARY SECTOR TRAINING

Voluntary Sector Training
46 High Street
Great Dunmow, Essex

01371 876747

Retaining Volunteers

Volunteer turnover, just like staff turnover, is costly and time consuming. This session will help you ensure that your volunteers are motivated, supported and properly valued. The session will ensure it is a “win - win situation” for you, the volunteer and the organisation

A full list of courses and availability can be viewed on the VST website (www.voluntarysectortraining.org.uk). Please note VST’s prices will rise to £70 per course in September so take advantage of our current rates whilst you still can.

Vetting and Barring scheme halted



The ISA registration stage of the Vetting and Barring Scheme for people working and volunteering with children and vulnerable adults in England , Wales and Northern Ireland has been halted. A review of the Scheme will be undertaken by the Home Office with the aim of cutting it back to "common sense levels".

The first phase of ISA registration was due to begin on 26 July. This has now been stopped. However, existing arrangements introduced in October 2009 will continue.

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) recently provided registered bodies with an initial stock of new application forms, ready for the planned launch of the ISA-registration phase in July. The CRB will still launch the new application form on 26 July as planned but parts of the new form which capture ISA registration requirements will be ignored when applications are processed.

Details, key dates and FAQs about the interim arrangements can be found on the CRB website:

http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/faqs/interim_application_process.aspx.

Information and Home Office statements can be found on the [Volunteering England website](#).

Equal Rights and Justice for the Disabled

UKDPC (UK Disabled People's Council) has launched its new manifesto for 2010, focussing on equal rights and justice, independent living and the role of disabled [people in the co-production of policies and placing disability at the top of the political agenda. To read the manifesto, visit:

www.improvingsupport.org.uk/disability

courtesy of improving support.org E-bulletin June 2010

Trustee Recruitment for Small Organisations

Building on the work of the Governance Hub and responding to feedback from across the sector, the Capacitybuilders funded National Leadership and Governance Workstream has created Trustee Recruitment Resources for small organisations. To find out more and download the resources, please visit:

www.nevo-vol.org.uk/trusteerecruitmentforsmallorganisations

courtesy of improving support.org E-bulletin June 2010

Create Games inspired volunteering opportunities.

If your organisation is inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games why not share this inspiration with volunteers from your local area. By using this inspiration, you can create volunteering opportunities that harness the enthusiasm and excitement of volunteers in your local area. We refer to these as Games inspired volunteering opportunities. A games inspired opportunity is one that will:



- **Benefit** your local community now and/or in the future;
- Be an opportunity that **celebrates** the 2012 Games;
- Have a **demonstrable** link with the 2012 Games
- Be a practical **expression** of the Olympic values of excellences, friendship, respect and the Paralympic values of courage, determination, inspiration and equality.

A series of workshops will be delivered (yet to be confirmed), but in the meantime, a guide has been created to explain in detail the process of creating Games inspired volunteering opportunities. This can be found on the Volunteering England Website - search for Creating Volunteering Opportunities inspired by the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT



Volunteering England has recently launched two Volunteer Management Initiatives :

A new support resource for people managing volunteers,

Volunteering England's new volunteer management portal launched in early June, and acts as a gateway to the world of volunteer management with links to over 1000 resources across England. This means that for the first time, information on support, training and development opportunities for people managing volunteers is available to view in one single place. If you work with volunteers or know someone who does, this invaluable new resource will help you locate a wide variety of training providers and consultants, support and development opportunities. Visit the portal at: www.volunteering.org.uk/vmportal.

A different kind of investment – what does your organisation stand to gain?

Volunteering England has now launched the Value Volunteer Management Campaign to increase awareness of the value and importance of investing in volunteer management. Many key organisations have already shown support, including the BBC, Microsoft, Barnardo's, RSPB, National Trust and PDSA. These organisations know that investing in professional and strategic volunteer management really boosts the value they gain from volunteering, leading to increased budgets, raised organisational profile, strengthened service provision, improved community relations and much, much more.

Visit the campaign site at <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/valuevolunteermanagement> to find out what your organisation stands to gain.

You can show your commitment to volunteer management by signing the online endorsement, or by providing a quote or case study.

Both these initiatives are funded by the Office for Civil Society as part of Capacity-builders' Volunteer Management Programme.

For portal related enquiries please contact:

VMportal@volunteeringengland.org

To find out more about the campaign contact :

valueVM@volunteeringengland.org

Courtesy Volunteering England

Volunteering and Benefits

Did you know that there is no 16 hour rule about volunteering while you are on Jobseeker's Allowance?

This is an area that frequently causes confusion however these are the guidance and facts:

You can volunteer as much as you like, as long as you are still actively seeking work. There is a misconception that there is a 16 hour rule because there is one for other types of activity.

The Jobcentre Plus leaflet called Volunteering While Getting Benefits, which is available from www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dwp1023.pdf explains the rules in more detail.

Voluntary Sector Voice (Formerly Strengthening the Third Sector)

Tuesday 17th August 2010

6.30 - 8.00 pm

Civic Suite, Hockley Road, Rayleigh

Presentation will be given by Collette Wilson of Essex County Council on Self Directed Support (See P 6 for further details)

Hosted by the Rochford Local Strategic Partnership



Rochford Local Strategic Partnership Information Day

Great Wakering Primary School
High Street
Great Wakering

Wednesday 25th August 2010

11.00 am - 3.00 pm

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Out and About - Supporting Disabled Children

Out and about is committed to enabling disabled children and young people to have fun by becoming included in mainstream leisure activities.

The children are matched with volunteers based on their interests and the volunteers support them in a range of activities from sport to cinema, craft to clubbing.

Out and About currently have a number of volunteers already working in the Rochford District, however, we are desperately in need of young male volunteers to match to teenage male service users.

If you are aged 16 or over, and are enthusiastic, friendly and have a willingness to participate in the activities, we would love to hear from you.

Introduction to Self Directed Support

Putting Essex People First

Essex County Council has made a commitment to the personalisation of Adult Social Care with its 'Putting Essex People First' initiative.

'Personalisation' begins with the person as an individual, with strengths and aspirations as well as a circle of family, friends and other support. It allows individuals to draw on their own resources, as well as those available through other services, to meet their needs in the best way possible. This is replacing traditional services which developed standard ways of meeting needs of groups of people rather than individuals so, inevitably, people were matched to services available.

To fulfill this vision of personalisation, Essex County Council has introduced a brand new system of delivering services for all new Adult Social Care service users called Self-Directed Support. This is a new way of working which gives service users greater freedom, choice and control over the kind of care support they receive. And a major part of this is with the introduction of personal budgets, initially for all eligible people newly referred for ongoing adult social care support.

The individual is at the centre of the process of identifying their need and making choices about who, what and when regarding their support and care.

This is a major full-scale change with power beginning to be shifted from the government to the person who uses services and the people who support and care for them. We want to empower our residents to shape their own lives and the services they receive.

Essex County Council has now implemented Self-Directed Support which will be gradually phased in over the next three years through a series of carefully-managed stages.

For more information visit the Adult Social Care pages on the Essex County Council Website – www.essex.gov.uk.

The personalisation agenda will provide opportunities for voluntary and community organisations to deliver some of the services required by individuals. If you would like to know more about how your organisation can get involved please contact Jackie Brown at RRAVS on 01268 772796 or email: corravs@yahoo.co.uk

Volunteering Opportunities

A Great Day Out!

If you enjoy working with children and are free on Wednesday 4th August, why not consider helping this worthy charity to make the day a day to remember for the children. The Taxi Drivers Charity Fund for Children are currently organising their annual outing and are looking for Escorts for this occasion. The Escort will be picked up by the drivers at approximately 7.30 am, who then pick up the children. From there they will then travel to an assembly point to proceed by convoy to the outing destination (Kursaal Bowling, Pier Train ride, Adventure Island, Garons for Tea and a Disco). There will be two adults (driver plus escort) for every three children. The day will be finished by approximately 6.30 pm.



All the Fun of the Fair - Tombola Stand Assistant (Monday 30th August 2010).

The Taxi Drivers Charity Fund for Children are looking for an outgoing, bubbly person to assist them at the fair at King Georges' Park, Rayleigh on the August Bank Holiday Monday. You need to be available from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm and transport to and from the venue can be provided.



Love to Cook?

Cook required for Hullbridge Day Centre Tuesdays Thursdays and Fridays. We are an exceptionally friendly group and can guarantee this opportunity is very rewarding. All expenses are paid.



Youth Workers Needed.

We have a number of groups currently seeking people to assist with the running of their youth groups in the evenings. If you are young at heart, enthusiastic and able to communicate well with youngsters and looking to have fun whilst volunteering, why not apply?



Saturday Drivers - Wyvern Community Transport

Wyvern Community Transport are now operating six days a week, and are looking for a driver to help run its new Saturday service. If you are able to commit to one Saturday a month, or even more please get in touch.



Essex Savers Net Credit Union - Fair Finance for Essex

Essex Savers are a secure place for your savings that also offers affordable loans. Members' savings accumulate to form a "pot of money" from which loans are offered to members. We are looking for a whole range of different volunteers from collection point, through to board members and everything in between.



For further information about any of the above volunteering vacancies, please contact Amanda or Jeannette on 01268 772796.



Fancy volunteering, but don't know what's available out there?

If this is the case, why not visit www.do-it.org.uk?

This brilliant website holds a national database of volunteering opportunities available all over the UK.

To narrow down your search and find something local to you, click on **“Find a Volunteer Centre”** and enter your postcode.

This will bring up the nearest Volunteer Centre to your home address. You can then click on **“View our opportunities”** and this will bring up all the organisations currently looking for volunteers. From here you can refine your search by choosing an interest, activity or location.

Once you've found an opportunity you would like to register an interest in, click on **“apply for this opportunity”**, this will take you to a page where, if you haven't already registered, you can click **“online registration form”** to take you to a simple to fill form, then back to the page where you add your e-mail address and password (set up during the registration process) and click on **“enter it!”**

Once you have applied, your opportunity form will go either to the organisation who posted it on the website (most often the local Volunteer Centre) or the organisation providing the opportunity. The details will be sent through to you by email and they will contact you.