



CAVOS

newsletter

April 2009

Business as usual at CAVOS

CAVOS will still be operating within the boundaries of the previous Sedgefield Borough.

Although the new Area Action Partnership (AAP) areas cover different ground to the old Borough borders, the CVS's covering the County have agreed to continue working within their current Borough boundaries.

So even though Shildon is now part of the Bishop Auckland AAP, groups in Shildon should still come to CAVOS with their support needs.

Turn to page 3 for more information on the new Area Action Partnerships

Contact Michelle at CAVOS for a map of your AAP area

Networking Event & Funders Fair

Friday 1st May 2009

10am—2pm @ Spennymoor Town Hall

This event will be a great opportunity for you to network with other groups & talk to some of the North East's top funders face-to-face including BIG Lottery & Co. Durham Foundation plus many more!

This event is absolutely free & a hot lunch will be provided for everyone who attends!

The 'market style' layout will allow groups to set up their own stalls among the funders. If you'd like a stall for your group, let us know and we'll reserve a space for you.

Alternatively, why not simply come along and see what's going on. Just make sure you let us know to expect you!

Contact Allyson at CAVOS if you're interested having a stall for your group or would simply like to pay us a visit on the day.

This is a networking event and an opportunity to talk to funders. This event is open to members of any community group in the area.

If you have any queries relating to this newsletter, or would like an article published in the next issue please contact us:

Tel: 01388 811115 Fax: 01388 817772

Email: enquiries@cavos.org.uk www.cavos.org.uk

Community Engagement Questionnaire

CAVOS is currently undertaking some research into how we as an organisation can support community engagement by working in partnership with community and voluntary groups in Sedgefield Borough.

For the purposes of this research we are defining community engagement as the process of getting people involved in the decisions that affect their lives.

To help us with this research we would like to ask you to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to us in the freepost envelope provided.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about the research project then contact Laura Agar Wilson at CAVOS on 01388 811115.

Laura is also studying for an MA at Durham University and will be producing a report based on this research. No groups or individuals will be named directly within the research report. A summary of this report will be made available to all respondents.

VCS Consultation Panel

CAVOS is looking to set up a Voluntary and Community Sector consultation panel.

People who sign up to be part of the panel will be contacted and consulted on issues and topics that they have an interest in.

These issues and topics will usually be related to the sector however, we may occasionally consult you on some general community issues.

This process will be informal and we ask anyone who may be interested in the panel to contact Gillian, Laura or Michelle at CAVOS

Volunteers' Week 2009

1st - 7th June

Keep an eye out for details of what the Volunteer Centre will be getting up to during Volunteers' Week



Volunteer Awards Evening 2009

This year's Awards evening will be one not to miss!

Thursday 4th June 2009
at Spennymoor Town Hall

Get your nominations in!!

Tickets to the Awards evening will go fast so contact CAVOS to book your place

Entertainment showcase

CAVOS and the Volunteer Centre are looking for local groups who may like to showcase their talents at the Volunteer Awards Evening on Thursday 4th June 2009.

This will be a great opportunity for you to strut your stuff at one of the hottest events of 2009!

If your group has a knack for entertaining then why not take advantage of this one-off opportunity. CAVOS will make a donation to your group and you'll get to enjoy the evening with a free pie-and-peas dinner thrown in to boot

Contact CAVOS to register your interest
01388 811115 enquiries@cavos.org.uk

Let us know what you think!

Do you have a compliment, complaint or comment that you would like to make about CAVOS, its staff or volunteers?

If you do then let us know!



Area Action Partnerships Update

The local Area Action Partnerships (AAP's) are the new local government structures that will soon be in place to take forward local priorities as part of the new Unitary Authority for County Durham. The former Sedgefield Borough area has been split into 5 areas that are covered by an Area Action Partnership. These are:

- **Spennymoor:** including the town, Tudhoe, Middlestone Moor, Byers Green, Kirk Merrington and Croxdale
- **Newton Aycliffe:** including Middridge and Woodham
- **Ferryhill & Chilton:** including and Cornforth and Bishop Middleham
- **East Durham Rural corridor:** covering Sedgefield, Fishburn, the Trimdons as well as a part of the Durham City area
- **Bishop Auckland:** also covers Shildon and Eldon

Each AAP will have 21 board members, these will be: 7 elected councillors, 7 community representatives, and 7 'partner' members that includes a representative from the Police, Fire, PCT, Business Sector, Social Housing, Durham County Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector. It has not yet been decided how the community representatives will be selected.

The AAPs will hold 2 large events each year that will allow anyone from the area interested in the work to participate and put forward their views on the work done and priorities for the future. These will provide an opportunity for everyone to have input.

The Area Action Partnerships are being launched in the very near future – the dates and venues are listed below. The launch events will provide an opportunity find out more about the proposed work of the AAPs. It is essential that anyone wishing to attend books a place. You can do so by contacting Angela Mulholland at Durham County Council on 01388 816166.

Date	Area	Venue
Wed 15th April	Ferryhill and Chilton	Ferryhill Comprehensive
Tues 21st April	Newton Aycliffe	Leisure Centre
Wed 29th April	East Durham Rural	Sedgefield Community College
Wed 6th May	Spennymoor	Leisure Centre
Tues 12th May	Bishop Auckland	Jubilee Fields, Shildon

If you would like a map of your AAP area emailed to you then please contact Michelle at CAVOS on 01388 811115 or email michelle@cavos.org.uk

Community Buildings Forum

The next Community Buildings Forum meeting will be held at Mainsforth Community Centre in Ferryhill on 29th April at 2pm.

Contact Laura at CAVOS if you would like more information on this forum, a map to the venue or to confirm your attendance. 01388 811115

laura@cavos.org.uk

This newsletter is available to download from the CAVOS website:

www.cavos.org.uk

The CAVOS website also has a range of helpful information and materials available to download

Networking Page

Capture Films

To help organisations in the community and voluntary sector raise their profile and gain maximum exposure during this economic downturn, Capture Films are launching a new scheme.

Capture Films are offering all organisations in the Community and Voluntary sector the chance to have a website with integrated video produced for the give away price of £295. And, if you're stuck for cash, you can pay in ten monthly instalments of £29.50

Organisations can choose any number of features to add to their website from photo galleries, a blog and forums to name a few. In addition, Capture Films will link all the websites together in a central database so you can get even more exposure.

The video will be produced by Capture Films and can be used to promote your group and its work, advertise a new product or service or just a simple welcome message to your visitors...it's up to you. They'll even give you a DVD copy of the film so you can use it to send to funders to highlight what you do.

This is a limited time offer. For more information call Capture Films on 01325 311011 or email info@capturefilms.com

Fishburn Kurling Club

Good luck to the Club who will see Tom Stubbs defending his title as World Champion at the World Kurling Championships in Widnes on 2nd May.

The Club has recently been awarded £750 from County Durham Foundation Grassroots Grants to support them to attend the Championships. The Club were introduced to County Durham Foundation at the CAVOS training course 'Everything You Need To Know About Funding'

Keep checking the CAVOS website for updates on how they do!

And congratulations to the Club for recently becoming a registered charity.

Work Wanted!

CAVOS and the Volunteer Centre have recently been contacted by a local company who are looking to do some work in the community.

Some of the staff at Berco have found themselves with a bit of spare time on their hands and their bosses have been good enough to let them loose to help you out!

So if you need a hand clearing out a room in your local church hall or could do with a lick of paint in your community centre, contact Sharon at CAVOS on 01388 811115 or email sharon@cavos.org.uk.

Let Sharon know what you want doing and she'll pass it on to the lovely people at Berco.

County Durham LINK events

A LINK is an independent network of local people and groups, whose responsibility it will be to discover what people want from their health and social care services.

County Durham LINK will be holding a number of district events during April and May.

There will even be an opportunity for all LINK members to have a one to one with their current district representative, so please bear in mind that you will need to book a place now to avoid disappointment.

All district events will start at 10.30 with coffee and registration at 10am and finish at 12 noon with sandwiches:-

Sedgefield - Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe - Thursday 16th April 2009

As some of the current work plan issues will be ending soon it is now time to think about developing a new work plan for the second part of 2009/10. This is where our members will be vital in giving the LINK its direction over the next few months.

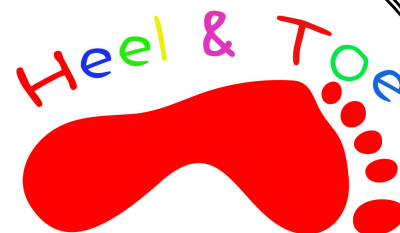
If you would like to know more about the events and how to become a member of the LINK, please contact the LINK Team on 01325 327431.

You can also download a booking form from the LINK website www.linkcountydurham.co.uk

Networking Page

Feature Organisation - Heel & Toe

Who we are: Heel & Toe is a registered charity set up help children with motor impairment learn to overcome their difficulties using a system of learning called Conductive Education. We officially opened in October 2008.



What we do : At Heel and Toe, our focus is on improving the quality of life by developing a child's social, emotional, communication, academic and motor skills. We provide Conductive Education to children aged 6 months to 16 years who suffer from motor impairment e.g. cerebral palsy. Conductive Education teaches children and adults with physical disabilities how to overcome their movement problems.

Why we're needed: Children with motor impairment need regular physiotherapy in order to overcome their difficulties. Such resources cannot be accessed as regularly as needed on the NHS and going private can cost a fortune! Heel and Toe provides Conductive Education free of charge to all children in the North East who may be in need of the service. The North East has the highest number of children with cerebral palsy in the UK so there's a great demand for what we offer!

Where we are: The Heel and Toe Centre is in Spennymoor where our services are provided. However, we work with children from all over the North East.

How you can get involved: We need you to spread the word about us! There are thousands of children who could greatly benefit from our support and it's free. Please let anyone you know who has a child with a motor impairment about us. Our services are too good to miss out on. We are also currently looking for a volunteer to support our Senior Conductor on a Saturday. Please let us know if you are interested.



How to contact us: 0844 335 0512

info@heelandtoe.org.uk Heel & Toe, The Meadows,
Whitworth Lane, Spennymoor DL16 7QW.

If your organisation would like to be the next 'feature organisation', contact Michelle at CAVOS

Society for the Blind seeks fundraisers

The County Durham Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted is a small voluntary organisation operating across the County of Durham. Services offered by the Society include a befriending scheme, a resource centre, 2 talking newspapers and a community support scheme.

Grants and voluntary donations enable the Society to provide these services. Fundraising is an on-going challenge and the Society is seeking to set up a network of volunteer fundraisers.

The fundraisers would be responsible for organising events such as coffee mornings, street collections, emptying collection boxes etc. to help supplement the fundraising carried out centrally.

Volunteering is an excellent opportunity not only to make new friends, but also to utilise your existing skills or as a way of learning new skills as a possible pathway to work.

Could you spare a little of your time to help?

If so please call Carol McAllister on 0191 386 8175 for more information.

The Society offers full training and re-imburses out of pocket expenses.



Community Appraisal Documents

CAVOS now has electronic copies of the community appraisal documents that cover Sedgefield Borough. If you would like us to email copy of your local appraisal contact us and we will forward it to you. If you require a hard copy we may have to make small charge for postage and printing.

Safeguarding Unit

The NSPCC and Children England have been commissioned to set up and manage the National Safeguarding Unit for the Third Sector, which will support voluntary and community organisations in setting child protection standards.

Outcomes

There are five key outcomes:

- Third sector organisations have safeguards in place to prevent the abuse of children and young people.
- Recruitment practices that reflect best practice and are demonstrably safer.
- Organisations have arrangements in place for assessment and management of risk in all their activities involving children.
- The safeguarding arrangements of third sector organisations are integrated into local inter-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- Parents and carers of young people are able to identify safeguarding arrangements that organisations involved with their children should have in place

One stop shop

The Unit will also act as a one-stop-shop for information and advice, using a website and telephone helpline. It will work in collaboration with other bodies and disseminate good practice and endorse work that meets agreed standards..

The Unit will be based in the NSPCC National Training Centre in Leicester. Support, training and coordination through regional and local networks will be coordinated via the nine Children England regional development managers.

The Unit and website will be established in April 2009. Some services will be available from March: an information service, the Safe communities toolkits, which will be distributed to small organisations and free training through Educare online programme

For further details www.nspcc.org.uk

Does your community organisation work with children or young people? If so, do you need money to support your work?

The Sedgefield Communities of Interest is an open group to provide information and support for any voluntary and community sector organisation working with children and young people.

We are holding our first annual stakeholder event to let you know what we do, how we can support you to support the young people you work with, and how you can access our funds.

Come along and find out what support and funding is available to help you deliver the important work you do with children or young people.

Sedgefield Communities of Interest

First Annual Stakeholder Event
Launch of the "Sedgefield Communities of Interest Pot" (SCIP) Fund

**Dean Bank Literary Institute
Tuesday 28th April 10am – 2pm
Free Buffet Lunch provided**

Booking Essential
Book your place by contacting
Cornforth Partnership on **01740 652000**
or karen@cornforthpartnership.org

Volunteer Co-ordinators forum meeting

**23rd April 2009 10am - 12pm
@ Bowburn Community Centre**

If you have responsibility within your organisation for recruiting, supporting and/or supervising volunteers then why not come along.

Contact Sharon at CAVOS for more info on the forum 01388 811115

Charity Commission Update

CRB Checks for trustees

Following consultation, the charity Commission has officially revised its policy relating to CRB disclosures at registration.

The Commission considers that CRB checks are currently the best way forward for trustees to know whether a fellow trustee is disqualified from working with vulnerable beneficiaries.

It believes that charity trustees risk being in breach of their duty of care and their duty to act solely in the interests of the charity if they fail, without good reason, to carry out appropriate CRB checks when they are entitled to do so.

In some circumstances such failures may be viewed as evidence of misconduct and / or mismanagement on the administration of the charity.

A charity will be eligible to seek a disclosure from CRB about its trustees if they have direct or indirect access to children or vulnerable adults.

For more information about CRB checks for Trustees or for information on the CAVOS Service, contact Michelle at CAVOS on 01388 811115 michelle@cavos.org.uk

Public Benefit guidance

The Charity Commission has published final versions of public benefit guidance for the advancement of education; fee-charging; preventing or relieving poverty; and the advancement of religion.

This is another step toward comprehensive Commission guidance on whether organisation's are genuinely charitable.

The guidance and summaries of consultation responses can be downloaded from www.charitycommission.gov.uk/news

Threshold Changes: Accounting and Reporting

In September last year the Government agreed to make a number of changes to the financial thresholds in the Charities Acts following a public consultation. These changes have, as planned, taken effect from 1 April 2009.

The changes to accounting and reporting thresholds are:

- the threshold for requiring accounts to be externally examined is raised from £10,000 to £25,000: benefiting around 37,000 charities.
- the threshold for the preparation by non-company charities of accruals accounts is raised from £100,000 to £250,000: around 11,700 in this category will benefit.
- the assets element of the audit threshold is raised from £2.8 million to £3.26 million and the lower income trigger for this is raised from £100,000 to £250,000
- the threshold for registered charities to submit their annual accounts and Trustees Annual Reports to the Commission is raised from £10,000 to £25,000: this will benefit around 23,000 small charities.

The revised thresholds will apply to financial years ending on or after 1 April 2009. Further information can be downloaded from the website: www.charitycommission.gov.uk/news/threshold1

All charities, including those with annual incomes under £25,000 must prepare accounts and make them available on request. The changes to accounting thresholds followed a consultation held jointly by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office and the Charity Commission.

CAVOS runs a community accounting project which was set up with the aim of helping smaller groups to have their accounts independently checked. For more information on this project contact Laura at CAVOS on 01388 811115 laura@cavos.org.uk

Organisational File

Do you want to be able to access all of your group's documents and important information simply, quickly and easily?

Do you want to make applying for funding really easy?

**Then the answer's simple:
you need an Organisational File!**

What is it?

The idea behind the organisational file is having a 'one-stop-shop' for all important documents and information relating to your group. The file will hold all of your legal documents as well as your policies and procedures.

Why should you have one?

- It's free
- All of your important documents will be in one place
- Easy to use templates for planning and reporting e.g. annual report
- All of the information you need to write a funding application in one place
- Handbook for committee members and volunteers
- Free CAVOS staff support to develop the file

If you think your organisation would benefit from having an organisational file or if you would simply like to know more about it, contact Freda at CAVOS:

01388 811115 freda@cavos.org.uk




capacitybuilders

