



# CAVOS

## newsletter

Summer 2010

### Organisational file - get yours now!

We've had excellent feedback on the 'organisational files' so we decided to conduct a review of it to see how we could make it even better!

**What is it?** The file offers an easy guide to developing a one-stop-shop for all of the information on your group. CAVOS designed the organisational file with the aim of helping groups to organise themselves.

**What's new?** The file has now been adapted into an easy-to-understand toolkit that include green 'guidance sheets' that guide you through the process of completing each section. You can complete your file within your own timescale, wherever and whenever you like. CAVOS will still be on hand to help you out if you need it!

**How to get one for your group:** It couldn't be simpler! Just contact Laura or Michelle at CAVOS and we'll send you one!

## CAVOS 10th Birthday Celebration Event!

CAVOS will be hosting it's 10th birthday celebration event on:

**Friday 3rd September 2010**

**@ St Paul's Church, Spennymoor**

And you're invited!

CAVOS wants to celebrate the last decade in style by holding this celebration event as part of our AGM.

*The AGM will start at 12.30 (lunch on arrival) with the Birthday Celebration beginning at 2.30 for a 4pm finish*

The event will include:

- ⇒ Entertainment by Enter CIC (dance company)
- ⇒ Motivational presentation
- ⇒ Birthday cake & balloon popping with prizes to be won!
- ⇒ Champagne and strawberries

**Take up our invitation! Booking is essential so please RSVP!**

See page 2 for a message from Gillian Fortune, CAVOS Chief Officer and the official notice for the AGM

**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](mailto:enquiries@cavos.org.uk) [www.cavos.org.uk](http://www.cavos.org.uk)**

## A message from Gillian Fortune, CAVOS Chief Officer

CAVOS was set up in 2000. It was the International Year for the Culture of Peace, we had a New Labour government in power, a Y2K superbug hadn't fried our computer circuits and Madonna did her own cover version of 'American Pie' (not her best). It was an exciting time, there was very little in the way of support for local voluntary sector organisations in the Sedgefield Borough area so CAVOS stepped in to brand new shoes and prepared to walk down a newly paved path. Our aim was, and still is to support the Voluntary and Community Sector in the Sedgefield Borough area.' We think we've done a good job...we hope you do too.

It's been an eventful decade hasn't it? CAVOS has worked with hundreds of local groups and organisations over the last 10 years and we've supported you to bring in millions of pounds worth of funding to help thousands of people all over the area. Now that CAVOS is the big one-oh, we've taken the time to stop and reflect on all that the sector has achieved in the last decade. We've been through some hard times but we've all fought through it and come out of the other side stronger for it. Some organisations have closed their doors permanently along the way, but not before making a positive mark on the world.

What could the next 10 years possibly hold? 2010 has already brought more than its fair share of challenges which have raised concerning questions about the future: How will the Budget cuts affect the sector? Where will our next lot of funding come from? Is Big Society a good thing for our sector or not? One thing we do know is that we'll all find a way to cope with whatever happens; it's what we do. We're the Voluntary Sector after all, we don't do this because we have to, we do it because we believe in something.

Join us on the 3rd of September to celebrate the last 10 years, raise a glass with us and congratulate yourselves on jobs well done. And as for the next 10 years, well who knows! All we do know is that if we work together as we have done for the last 10 years, we can handle anything the next decade throws our way! A personal philosophy of mine is that it is not what happens to us that matters but how we react "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade".

Thank you to all of you who continue to support CAVOS. Without you we wouldn't be here!  
We believe in you, I hope you continue to believe in us

Gillian Fortune, CAVOS Chief Officer

### CAVOS Annual General Meeting

Followed by the CAVOS Birthday Celebration!

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2010**  
**St Paul's Church Hall, Spennymoor**

**12.30 light lunch on arrival – 1pm start**  
**AGM will close at 2pm**  
**Birthday celebration will run 2pm - 4pm**  
**including entertainment by Enter CIC**

Booking is essential for the CAVOS AGM & Birthday Celebration.

Contact CAVOS to book your place  
01388 811115 enquiries@cavos.org.uk

### Could you be a CAVOS Trustee?

CAVOS draws its Trustees from its membership of organisations or from people we can co-opt who have the appropriate skills and experiences we are looking for.

We provide a good induction process and any support to help individuals become a key member of our Board of Trustees.

If you would like to find out more about supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector through being a CAVOS Trustee, please contact our Chief Officer Gillian Fortune to arrange an informal chat (01388 811115)

## Volunteer Awards Evening 2010 - the winners

The 2010 Volunteer Awards Evening was held on Thursday 3rd June at Spennymoor Town Hall. The Awards Evening saw volunteers from the 'Sedgefield Borough' area rewarded for their hard work and dedication Julia Bowles (CAVOS Chair) presented the awards

This year's winners were:

**Volunteer of the Year:** Alicia McGuire, Young Women's Sport and Active Recreation Project

**Volunteer Group of the year:** Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Services

**Special Recognition Awards:**

James Garratt, Friends of Senior Citizens

Andrew Timmiss, Tearaways Youth Theatre Group

Heather Carter, Real Lives: Real Choices,

Volunteer from Goals Project

Volunteers from East Durham Play and Community Network.



Alicia McGuire - 2010 Volunteer of the Year

No one left empty handed as thank you certificates were presented to all volunteers who attended

For information on recognising the good work of your volunteers, contact Sharon at the Volunteer Centre on 01388 811115 or email [Sharon@cavos.org.uk](mailto:Sharon@cavos.org.uk). The Volunteer Centre provides a broad range of advice so ring to find out how we can support you!

## Community Fair update

The CAVOS Community Fair was held on Friday 13th June 2010 at Spennymoor Leisure Centre.

Due to the popularity of our 2009 Networking Event & Funder's Fair, we decided to run our 2010 event on a bigger scale with even more stalls and more going on - and so the 'Community Fair' was born! 40 local organisations and agencies had their own stalls to promote their good work and the feedback was fantastic. Many stall holders told us that they received a great deal of interest in their organisations and even recruited some new volunteers from it! People who popped in to visit us on the day made brilliant comments about the Fair and the fantastic range of activities being run in the area

The Community Fair was a great opportunity to network with other groups, talk to some of the North East's top funders face-to-face and find out about local volunteering opportunities.

Thank you to everyone who was involved

## CAVOS Voluntary Sector Safeguarding Support Pack

CAVOS has been funded through the Sedgefield Local Children's Board to provide our 'Voluntary Sector Participation project'. This project provides support to voluntary groups to help them through the uncertainties of safeguarding including what to do, how and when to do it.

The safeguarding of children is extremely important and all funders now ask voluntary groups who apply for funds to prove what procedures they have in place to ensure that the children and young people in their care are safe. As part of this project, we have developed a support pack for groups in the usual CAVOS easy to understand style. The packs give you a lot of information on a range of issues and is available now for groups working with children and young people

Contact CAVOS for more information on this project or for your free support pack

## CAVOS Community Accounting Project - Treasurers Forum

We are holding the next meeting of the Treasurers Forum on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm at the CAVOS Offices in Spennymoor**. The Forum is for any treasurers who would like an update on charity accounting (this includes smaller groups that aren't registered as a charity), would like to talk to other treasurers or if you have any other queries relating to your role as treasurer.

The Treasurer's Forum can also offer your group or organisation an independent examination of your accounts. Although this is not a legal requirement for many smaller organisations, it is still best practice to have your accounts examined by an independent person. This can also give potential funders reassurance that your finances are managed correctly and transparently.

If you have any questions about the forum and would like to come along, or if you would like to discuss the independent examination of your accounts, please contact Laura on 01388 811115 or email [laura@cavos.org.uk](mailto:laura@cavos.org.uk)

## Have you survived or thrived?

During March and April 2009, VONNE (Voluntary Organisations Network North East) undertook a regional survey to identify the impact of the recession on the North East's third sector (Voluntary & Community Sector). The survey (titled 'Surviving or Thriving?') aimed to provide a clear picture of the impact of the recession and where we, as a region, need to target our support to help the region's third sector. The results have been a powerful tool in lobbying for more support for you and your organisations.

Following on from this survey, VONNE committed to carrying out additional surveys every 6 months to assess the ongoing impact of the recession on the sector. The third survey was carried out in May and CAVOS asked in our April e-bulletin that you consider taking part in it.

Over 100 organisations, working in all parts of the region, took part in the third of VONNE's six monthly survey looking at the impact of the economic downturn on the North East third sector.

The results show an even bleaker snapshot of the sector:

- ⇒ 78% have seen an increase in demand for their services
- ⇒ Over half report a decrease in funding and an increase in beneficiaries

The number of organisations that anticipate making staff redundant has fallen since the last survey. Last time, just over a fifth anticipated making staff redundant, while the current results show more than one in ten do. However, almost a third suggested that the position will worsen in the next 12 months.

On a perhaps more positive note, in the last survey 12% expected to close the organisation, which rose to a third of small organisations, however no organisation anticipated closing within the next 12 months. This could also be that those that were facing closure have in fact now closed.

The vast majority of organisations report that obtaining funding for their core service is their most difficult challenge. This will become an even greater challenge with the new government's plans to introduce £6 billion of public sector cuts this year. Approximately 90% of organisations report that they receive income from the public sector.

Organisations taking part in the survey supported 495,000 people in the North East last year, they employ over 2,000 people and their work is supported by 3,772 volunteers.

VONNE will be using the latest findings to lobby for continued support for the sector and that cuts to public sector funding are not disproportionately passed on to the sector.

A report and the full results of the latest survey are available on VONNE's website at [www.vonne.org.uk/survey](http://www.vonne.org.uk/survey)

Source: VONNE

## What support do third sector organisations really need?

The Surviving not Thriving reports highlight that third sector organisations in the North East, large and small, are facing the effects of the recession and significant public spending cuts. During this time they need help, support and advice to weather the storm. Help is given by support organisations, such as councils for voluntary services (CVS) like CAVOS. Support service providers face a dilemma as the demand for their services is currently on the rise but the future funding environment looks uncertain, if not bleak.

Over the last 5 years there has been a significant investment from central and local government into strengthening the support services of the third sector. However, the ChangeUp programme which resources support service providers is set to decline in March 2011.

VONNE asked frontline groups and the support service providers themselves what they needed to help them through the turbulence and funding uncertainty. The overwhelming response showed that local groups need help to bring in funding, win contracts, develop partnerships and generally get 'fit for purpose' in a highly competitive environment. They also want to get everyday support from their local CVS too. They still want to access relevant information, attend networks, influence policy, manage volunteers and get training on how to run their groups. So the pressure is on support organisations like CAVOS to deliver the current range of services and to also help local groups to weather the post recession storm. Support organisations are facing up to the fact that they need to respond to the challenges ahead and consider how they can better promote the added value they bring.

**The Infrastructure Development Meta Plan** brings together the priorities of Voluntary Sector support organisations across the region. The key issues affecting the third sector in the North East today are identified as: funding, evolving, planning and promotion.

**Funding** – This includes any form of income generation including grants, assets and contracts. A major issue for support organisations is preserving core services and being sustainable so they can offer support as and when it is needed.

**Evolving** – Due to economic and political changes, it is inevitable that the sector we know today will change and adapt to the challenges ahead. Mergers, collaboration and partnerships are becoming ever more relevant when resources are scarce. The sector is constantly reshaping in line with policy and trends and infrastructure is at the heart of helping this take place.

**Planning** – It is a priority at local, regional and national level to help groups and frontline services to forward plan, take up opportunities, manage risks and improve performance to the sector.

**Promotion** – It is crucial that support organisations are able to demonstrate the added value they bring by supporting frontline services.

The full report details the challenges that support organisation are facing and suggests ways in which they can respond to the challenges. To download the report see [www.vonne.org.uk/rine](http://www.vonne.org.uk/rine)

As YOUR local voluntary sector support organisation, CAVOS wants to make sure that you're always getting the support that you need. It's a difficult time for the sector as a whole so it's vitally important that you continue to access the support that you need from CAVOS and suggest changes and additions to the services we provide.

To discuss your support needs, contact Laura or Michelle at CAVOS on 01388 811115 or email [enquiries@cavos.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cavos.org.uk)

Source: VONNE

## Budget 2010 – bite sized breakdown

In his Budget speech, Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne outlined how the Government plans to raise and spend money during the coming year.

The most significant aspect of his speech was the detailed breakdown of spending cuts that the Government is proposing. These cuts have been the focus of massive media attention since the Chancellor's budget speech and are also the aspect of the budget that will affect the voluntary sector the most. Although few indications have been given as to exactly how the sector will be affected, we can guess that the repercussions could be harsh. Importantly, the people that we all work to support will be affected greatly by these cuts so we all need to be aware of what they are and how they may affect our services and the people who access them. Below is a 'bite sized' version of the budget. It has been produced by the Urban Forum ([www.urbanforum.org.uk](http://www.urbanforum.org.uk)) and is a handy guide to understanding the Budget.

### **Bite sized Budget – produced by the Urban Forum**

#### **The Coalition Takeaway**

The June 22nd 2010 Budget sets out ways in which the coalition government want to bring down public borrowing and eliminate the structural budget deficit within 5 years.

Their aim is to cut public spending by £32 billion this year, and every year for the next five years (in addition to the cuts planned by the previous government). The total deficit reduction package is planned to be £113 billion in 2014-15, rising to £128 billion in 2015/16. Over a third of the savings (£11 billion) will come from cuts to benefits.

#### **Still on the menu**

- ⇒ Winter fuel payments
- ⇒ Free TV licenses for over 75s
- ⇒ Free off-peak local bus travel, eye tests and prescriptions for men and women over female state pension age

#### **No longer available**

- ⇒ The 'baby element' will be removed from child tax credit (from April 2011), and, from April 2012, the '50 plus element' will be removed from working tax credit
- ⇒ The Health in Pregnancy Grant (from April 2011)
- ⇒ The Saving Gateway – Government supported cash savings scheme for workers on low incomes (due to launch in July 2010)
- ⇒ A planned 10% increase in duty on cider

#### **Smaller portions**

- ⇒ Child tax credit for families with a combined income of over £40,000 (from April 2011) ( it is not being abolished, just reduced at present)
- ⇒ The budgets of all government departments to be cut by an average of 25% over the next four years - except health and foreign aid.
- ⇒ Reduction in working tax credit – by lowering the amount of your income not taken into account.
- ⇒ Housing Benefit will decrease across the board as the way it is worked out will be changed, as well as a cap on the limit of Housing Benefit – ie for larger families, or in higher rent areas
- ⇒ Reduce Housing Benefit for working-age claimants in social housing who are living in a larger property than their household size warrants.
- ⇒ Reduce Income Support Mortgage Interest payments (from October 2010) by changing how it is worked out

Continued.....

## Bigger portions

- ⇒ Discretionary Housing Payments (up by £40 million)
- ⇒ Increase in rate of child tax credit for those on lowest income
- ⇒ The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) to get an additional £200 million to support lending to small businesses until the end of March 2011.
- ⇒ The Personal Allowance for people on low incomes aged under 65 to increase by £1,000 in April 2011

## Changes in the menu

- ⇒ All cost of living increases in benefits, tax credits and pensions to be worked out using the Consumer Price Index rather than the Retail Price Index, which is lower.
- ⇒ Receipt of full housing benefit for claimants in rented housing to be time limited.
- ⇒ Lone parents required to look for work when their youngest child goes to school (rather than from 10 years old)
- ⇒ Disability Living Allowance claimants to be medically tested (from 2013)
- ⇒ The Discretionary Housing Payments system to cover the cost of an extra room for disabled claimants who need a carer.
- ⇒ Sure Start maternity grants limited to the first child only.
- ⇒ The basic state pension link to earnings restored from April 2011, with the pension guaranteed to rise then in line with earnings, prices or 2.5%, whichever is the greater. However this is likely to be offset by downward pressure on wages, and use of Consumer Price Index to calculate cost of living increase opposed to the Retail Price Index.
- ⇒ Special relief on Capital Gains Tax (CGT) for entrepreneurs has been increased. Entrepreneur's relief is a rate of 10% to be paid in CGT out of business sales.
- ⇒ Reduction in National Insurance (NI) contributions – raising the threshold by £21 per week and reducing NI for the first 10 people hired for some new businesses in targeted areas (i.e. outside London and the Southeast).

## New dishes being considered

- ⇒ Raising the State Pension age to 66 years. Consultation to start on 28th June.
- ⇒ Cutting public sector pensions. Early review findings will contribute to the autumn's Spending Review, with a full report for next year's Budget.
- ⇒ Green investment bank planned and investment in digital infrastructure.

## Ways to Pay

- ⇒ Value Added Tax up from 17.5% to 20% (from April 2011).
- ⇒ Capital Gains Tax up from 18% to 28% for higher and middle rate taxpayers
- ⇒ Corporation Tax down from 28% to 24% over 4 years from April 2011.
- ⇒ No increase in alcohol, cigarettes and fuel in addition to those in the March budget
- ⇒ A banking levy (from January 2011), expected to raise *circa*. £2bn per year

## Frozen food

- ⇒ Child Benefit frozen for 3 years
- ⇒ Public sector pay frozen for 2 years for those earning over £21,000.
- ⇒ Government to work with councils to freeze council tax for 2 years with protection for the public servants earning less than £21,000 (from April 2011).

Source: Urban Forum ([www.urbanforum.org.uk](http://www.urbanforum.org.uk) - 020 72534816)

## Coping with the budget cuts

National voluntary sector bodies have developed online resources to help groups cope with cuts:

**NCVO** (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) can provide information on how you raise your money; demonstrating your worth; managing your workforce; working with other organisations, innovating; using the Compact.

**Compact Voices** has tips for public sector bodies and information for voluntary groups. They want you to tell them what is happening, were you warned or consulted of any cuts?

**Cutswatch.org.uk** has been set up by ACEVO (*Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations*) to provide guidance and support to third sector organisations through public spending cuts. The site provides news, case studies, guides and information on how to positively deal with spending cuts, along with links to events and services.

**Most importantly:** CAVOS support is available to all voluntary sector organisations working in the 'Sedgefield Borough' area. We can provide a wide range of advice and support on accessing alternative forms of funding, recruiting and motivating volunteers, promoting your group to mention but a few! Please contact us to discuss your support needs

## Big Society—the basics

The Big Society is a Government agenda that seeks to shift power from politicians to people. It formed a key element of the Conservative 2010 election campaign and was the subject of the first major policy announcement of the new coalition government on 18 May 2010.

The main themes are:

- ⇒ Devolving power to communities and local government
- ⇒ A greater role in public services for Voluntary Organisations'
- ⇒ Supporting the voluntary and community sector

### What's it all about?

The new coalition government has stated that Big Society is a way to "put more power and opportunity into people's hands". Prime Minister David Cameron has said that "We want to give citizens, communities and local government the power and information they need to come together, solve the problems they face and build the Britain they want".

He has gone on to say that "only when people and communities are given more power and take more responsibility can we achieve fairness and opportunity for all"

The cabinet Office summary of Big Society and the policies that have already been agreed to take it forward is available to download from the CAVOS website. It is the first strand of a comprehensive Programme for Government to be published in the coming days, which the Government has stated will "deliver the reform, renewal, fairness and change Britain needs"

Source: NCVO & Cabinet Office

## Civic Activism

### why north east citizens face barriers in taking part

The North East Empowerment Partnership (NEEP) has recently carried out research to understand how the general public feel about standing for public appointments and civic participation. The Place Survey 2008 highlighted that the North East region was one of the lowest scoring in the country for individuals getting involved in local decision making. The findings from the research make an interesting read with many myths being busted. It's not down to public apathy but rather a cultural issue with party politics and cost putting many local people off standing for office.

The report makes recommendations to help to encourage wider participation and NEEP will now be sharing the findings with current Elected Members and local authorities to work together on this. The final report is available to download from the CAVOS website

## Networking Page

### The Tearaways Youth Theatre Group

Tearways are about to start rehearsals for their annual pantomime very soon. Oh Yes They Are! They are looking for any young people aged 11 to 19 years of age who would like to sing, dance or act and be a part of an award winning group. Learn new skills, meet new friends! 01388 774838 [www.tearaways-shildon.co.uk](http://www.tearaways-shildon.co.uk)

### Healthy Cooking Courses

As part of the Change4Life Government Initiative, County Durham and Darlington Community Health Services are offering free healthy cooking courses in community venues and schools throughout the area.

#### Cook4life Course

This is a free, fun and informal course developed for anyone interested in improving their diet and health or cooking simple healthy meals on a budget.

*This course is also appropriate for individuals with long term health conditions such as Diabetes and Coronary Heart Disease (CHD).*

The Cook4life Course runs over four weeks for two hours per week and covers:

- ⇒ Food hygiene and food safety
- ⇒ Preparing and cooking a healthy balanced diet
- ⇒ The effects of fats, sugar and salt in the diet
- ⇒ Reading and understanding food labels
- ⇒ Choosing healthier cooking methods and snacks

#### Cooking Together Course

This is a free, fun and informal course developed for parents and children aged 5 to 11 years. The course would benefit those who are interested in spending quality time cooking with their child, improving the diet and health of their family and/or cooking simple healthy meals on a budget. The Cooking Together Course runs over three weeks for 1½ hours per week and covers:

- ⇒ Hygiene and food safety
- ⇒ Preparing and cooking for a healthy balanced diet
- ⇒ The effects of fats, sugar and salt in the diet
- ⇒ Choosing healthier cooking methods and snacks.

For more information or to book a place, contact the Food and Health Team for the Easington and Sedgefield area on 0191 5692806 or 0191 5692841

### Check It Out!

'Check It Out!' Is a range of shows created with the help of young people across the Sedgefield locality as part of an exciting Local Children's Board Project. The shows are aimed at young people aged 12+ and are free.

The shows are interactive and will include film, sound, light, music and objects young people have designed and created in giant structures that will provoke thought about healthy lifestyle choices and decisions. If you are 12yrs or over come then Check it Out! 4 shows will be run in the area:

- ⇒ Chilton Gala Day (Chilton Community Primary) Saturday 21st August 11-5
- ⇒ Shildon Hackworth Park Saturday 14th August 10 - 3
- ⇒ Spennymoor Leisure Centre Saturday 7th August 11 - 5
- ⇒ Great Aycliffe Show (Oakleaf Sports Centre) Sat 28th & Sun 29th August 11-5

For more information ring 01325 379 048, email [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk) or visit [www.mylifecheck.co.uk](http://www.mylifecheck.co.uk)

### A day of fun, madness & music

Young Entertainers Wacky Workshops @ Sunnysdale Leisure Centre, Shildon - Wednesdays 11<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September £1 (Entrance To Leisure Centre) Bring A Packed Lunch & A Smile For more info, ring 01388 774838

### C.A.T.S. (Childrens Amateur Theatre Group Shildon)

C.A.T.S is a theatre group for all young people aged 8 to 11 years to join.

For more information ring 07747826324 or visit their website: [www.cats-theatre.co.uk](http://www.cats-theatre.co.uk)

## Networking Page

### **PCP community activities**

The Pioneering Care Centre is run by local charity PCP to help people of all ages and abilities to improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life. The Centre hosts a broad range of courses, therapies and activities for ANYONE to participate in. They have just published their new Summer Programme of Activities which details what is available. So if you're considering taking up a new course, or even pampering yourself with one of their luxurious body treatments, it's well worth checking out the new programme!

The programme is available to download from the CAVOS website or the PCP website [www.pcp.uk.net](http://www.pcp.uk.net) You can also contact the Centre directly on 01325 321234

### **Local recycling scheme**

Spennymoor Rotary Cub is running fantastic new scheme to encourage people to get recycling! From old milk bottle tops to ink cartridges, the Rotary Club is collecting your rubbish and recycling it to make money for various charities. If your group would like to get involved in this scheme, contact Michelle at CAVOS who will pass on your interest

### **Summer Activities in Aycliffe!**

Greenfield Community & Arts Centre in Newton Aycliffe has developed a jam-packed programme of activities for the whole family to get involved in. From family crafts to a 'School of Rock' the activities are varied and exciting.

To find out about the activities available, download the full schedule from the CAVOS website [www.cavos.org.uk](http://www.cavos.org.uk) or contact the Arts Centre Reception on 01325 379048 or email [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk) Further details about courses are also available at [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk)

Greenfield Community & Arts Centre is open to everyone, offering a wide and diverse range of opportunities, services and facilities.

### **Spennymoor Summer Activities Programme**

**Do you live in the Spennymoor area?**

**Are you involved in a youth club or do you have children of your own?**

You may be interested to know that there are loads of fantastic activities available for children and young people available in the area throughout the summer. There are a range of brilliant activities taking place over every week of the school holidays. This Summer Activity Programme is being offered by Spennymoor Extended Services in conjunction with (and funded by) Spennymoor AAP.

The full programme is available to download from the CAVOS website [www.cavos.org.uk](http://www.cavos.org.uk) You can also contact Wendy Minhinnet Spennymoor Extended Services Coordinator on 07825341249 for more information on the activities available

### **County Durham LINK**

**Management Committee members wanted!**

Local Involvement Networks or 'LINKs' were set up by the Government in April 2008 to give local people a stronger voice in how their health and social care services are delivered.

Further to the recent proposals for the restructure of the management Committee to increase the number of district representative members to 2 per district, they are now seeking nominations from members for vacant positions.

There are 2 positions available for representatives from the Sedgfield area although the current representative will be standing for re-election.

If you are a LINK member and would be interested in standing for election on to the Management Committee, contact Alesha Aljeffri on 01325327463 or email [alesha.aljeffri@pcp.uk.net](mailto:alesha.aljeffri@pcp.uk.net)

Nominations must be received by 13th August.

## Networking Page

CAVOS usually uses this section of our newsletter to promote a 'feature organisation' However, we have chosen to make a slight change in this issue and dedicate this section to a community activist and local volunteer who deserves a page of this newsletter all to himself. Read on to see why!

### **Feature Volunteer - Peter Beaty M.B.E**

Peter has worked as a volunteer since the age of 14, and even now at 78 he is still fundraising and organising events to benefit the local community.

Peter has organised events from small table top sales to benefit Help the Aged, to events such as Hiring the Orient Express for larger corporate fundraising events. As long as Peter is helping someone, somewhere he is fulfilled. Peter's enthusiastic approach to his work motivates those around him; often his own family and friends are co-opted into helping with the events he organises.

In 1994 Peter set up small group to look after the welfare of Senior Citizens in Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas, called "Friends of Senior Citizens".

In 2001 Peter was approached by the management of the over 60's club in Newton Aycliffe, which had operated in the town for 32 years, with a plea for help to take over a dilapidated building and their handful of members. Peter has been instrumental in raising over £30,000 to refurbish the new building. The effects of this transformation were seen to be so impressive that the building was re-named and opened as Neville Parade Community Centre. This centre now serves the community at large with mother and toddler groups, disabled sport clubs, craft classes and a great many more community based events taking place.

Peter started fundraising at 14 and has not yet stopped. Fundraising is instrumental to Peter's beliefs and his enthusiasm towards raising funds to benefit the community has become a way of life for him. His community spirit is infectious, as is his motivation and commitment to any project he undertakes. Peter remains undaunted, seeing only solutions, where others see problems. Peter has demonstrated this in the vast range of events he has undertaken, from hiring Concorde to dressing as Santa to entertain the children at the local community fairs. Peter's door is always open, his kindness knows no bounds.

Peter does not undertake these tasks in search of any personal recognition, however there are many who would like him to receive recognition for all of the wonderful work he has undertaken over the many years of fundraising.

Peter Beaty is a friend and supporter of CAVOS and was named Volunteer of the Year at our 2009 Volunteer Awards Evening. This year, Peter was included on the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Everyone at CAVOS and throughout the community who knows of his excellent work is delighted to see Peter recognised in such a way for his lifetime of dedication to supporting others. Congratulations Peter Beaty MBE!



Peter (left) with Phil Wilson MP  
at the 2009 Volunteer Awards Evening

## Vetting and Barring Scheme halted

Over the past year, CAVOS has featured articles on the new Vetting and Barring Scheme in our newsletters and a factsheet was sent out with our last issue. The Vetting and Barring Scheme was set to be a new system that would be introduced to help protect children and vulnerable people from harm by stopping people who are considered to be 'unsuitable' from working with them. The Vetting and Barring Scheme is administered by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).

The next phase of the scheme was due to be introduced in July 2010. It was due to become a legal requirement as of November 2010 for any new employee/volunteer working regularly with vulnerable people to be registered with the ISA before they start that work.

### **THIS HAS NOW BEEN POSTPONED**

In its recent document 'The Coalition: Our programme for government', the Government set out its aim to 'review the criminal records and vetting and barring regime and scale it back to common sense levels'. In order to deliver this promise and carry out the remodelling, the Vetting and Barring Scheme will be halted. A new date for reintroduction has yet to be set.

This means that you no longer have to be concerned about registering with the Independent Safeguarding Authority this year. CAVOS will continue to keep you informed of any further changes and whether a new date for introduction is scheduled.

Although this Scheme has been postponed, there is still a range of safeguarding systems that your organisation can adopt to ensure that you are following best practice procedures to keep the vulnerable people that you work with safe. CRB checks are one of the main mechanisms for 'vetting' a person's suitability to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults based on their criminal record. CAVOS offers a comprehensive CRB Disclosure Service to voluntary sector organisations working in the 'Sedgefield Borough' area. For more information on this service or to discuss your safeguarding needs and concerns, contact Michelle at CAVOS on 01388 811115 or email [michelle@cavos.org.uk](mailto:michelle@cavos.org.uk)

