



February 2007

inVOLVe

Audit Commission praises partnership working in the Borough

The Audit Commission's Corporate Assessment Report on the performance of Wigan MBC makes good reading for the authority's voluntary and community sector partners. The report looks predominantly at the effectiveness of Council services but it also examines how the Council works with its partners.

The good news is therefore not only that Wigan residents have a Council that is assessed as being one of the best performers in the country but that our sector's involvement has been recognised and valued.

On older peoples issues Age Concern are singled out for their work in bringing in extra benefits for local residents. Age Concern are also one of the voluntary sector groups involved in POPP which, as highlighted in the last edition of "InVOLVe", is a £1.7 million programme of activities delivered by a range of groups and which is cited as an example of achieving flexible services to meet variable local need.

Community involvement through the Townships and the Community Empowerment Networks is recognised as being a major factor in enabling the Council to target services to local needs. The Local Strategic Partnership is "successfully tackling areas which reflect local and national priorities". The LSP is made up of thematic partnerships in which the active involvement of members of our sector is vital. This involvement encourages the report to comment on the wide ownership of core issues and the use of formal and informal partnerships to deliver local improvements.

A separate report on Childrens and Young Peoples Services also stresses the role of partners in delivering services and supporting public services, with particular mentions being given to Rafiki and Motsweko.

Wigan and Leigh CVS is very pleased that the Local Authority's work has received such a positive report and we look forward to continuing to work as an active partner. We will continue to promote the value of the voluntary and community sector not as alternatives to public services but as an essential complement to such services. When necessary we shall be a critical friend to the Authority. We acknowledge our primary role is to support the voluntary and community sector but we appreciate the sentiments of the Audit Commission. "The Council shares with partners a firm and well-understood resolve to raise the aspirations of all local people and to improve their quality of life".

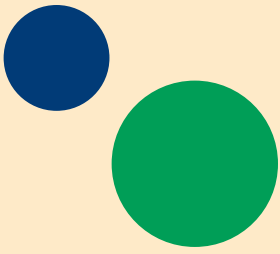
Read the full reports on www.wiganmbc.gov.uk

We would like to thank the following organisations for their support:-



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The CVS Board

CVS Trustees are from member organisations and agree to represent the whole CVS membership in their activities, so if you wish to raise any issues don't hesitate to get in touch with them.

The Board is (in alphabetical order):

Gloria Armistead	Fasaware
Chris Ashton	WAVE
Jean Garlick	Making Space
Michael Hammond	Wigan Council for Voluntary Youth Service
Margaret Hughes	Friends of Sunshine House
Joseph Lienou	Walasara
John McArdle	Age Concern Wigan Borough
Barbara Nettleton	One Voice
Jean Stitt	Willow
Hazel Wellings	Towpath Community Press
Dr Gary Young	North West User Research Group

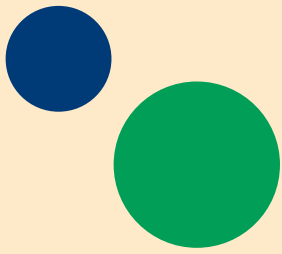
In addition CVS is pleased to have two observers with no voting rights:

Cllr Chris Ready	Wigan MBC
Anne Roberts	Wigan MBC Community Engagement Team



If you would like to be considered for the CVS Board of Trustees or for more information about this contact Nick Trotter on 01942 514234 or email ntrotter@cswl.org





CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLES TEAM

An Invitation for you!

You are invited to join the team at Wigan and Leigh Council for Voluntary Service for a special winter-spring programme of **FREE** events and training aimed at children and young people's groups.

Take a look at the sessions included in the programme, below.

Just choose the session/s that will be most useful to you, your management committee, volunteers or staff and return the training booking form to us.

You can also give us a call if you would like any more information about what's on offer.

If you can't attend any of these sessions but need support in any of these areas, please give us a call to find out what we can do for you!



Contact Laura Peers
Wigan and Leigh CVS
93 Church Street
Leigh
WN7 1AZ
Tel: 01942 514234
Fax: 01942 514352
Email: lpeers@cswl.org
Web: www.cswl.org

We look forward to seeing you there!

Winter/Spring Training Programme

So what's on offer?

If you have been on a CVS training session before, you will already know that they are always informative as well as interesting and interactive!

Take a look at the sessions included in this programme aimed at children and young peoples groups.

Local Network Fund Workshop

Thursday 1st February, 10am-1pm

St Mary's Church Hall, Warrington Road, Ince

The Local Network Fund gives money to voluntary groups working with Children and Young People aged 0-19 in the Wigan borough. This workshop introduces the fund, explains the application process and allows you to discuss your ideas.

How to Become a Company Limited by Guarantee

Monday 12th February, 9.30am-4.30pm

St Mary's Church Hall, Warrington Road, Ince

Has your voluntary group taken the decision to become a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee? Unsure what to do next?

This session will cover the process involved in becoming a company and look at the process involved.

Introduction to Safeguarding Children I

Wednesday 28th February, 4.30pm-6.30pm

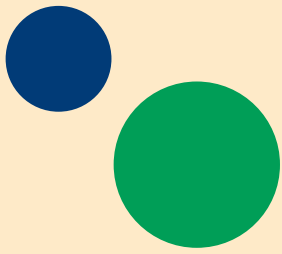
St Mary's Church Hall, Warrington Road, Ince

How will Safeguarding Children affect YOUR voluntary group?

Find out the basics in this introduction session.

(This is a repeat session)





Introduction to Becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee

Wednesday 14th March, 4.30pm-7.30pm (buffet served at 4pm)

St Mary's Church Hall, Warrington Road, Ince

Does your group have any paid staff? Do you own or lease premises?

If so, you have probably considered becoming a Company limited by Guarantee.

Find out more about the process and the pros and cons for your organisation in this session.

(This is a repeat session)

Strengthening Skills of Local Volunteers

CVS are piloting an accredited volunteer's certificate for local volunteers who work with children and young people.

The certificate 'Skills in Volunteering with Children and Young People' is funded through Children's Workforce Development Council, supported by Wigan Council and is accredited through Open College Network at Level 1.

The aim of this certificate is to formally recognise the knowledge and skills of volunteers through accreditation, offer a step into further learning and development for volunteers and encourage good practice within volunteer-involving organisations. Currently two local organisations and their volunteers have agreed to pilot the certificate.

Ruth Walkden, Assistant Chief Officer of CVS said "this certificate will recognise the valuable contribution of volunteers in our borough who work with children and young people in a wide range of roles and hopefully encourage more people to volunteer within the community".



Contact CVS on 01942 514234 to find out more.



GROUPS DEVELOPMENT - CVS

lbrown@cvswl.org (01942) 514234

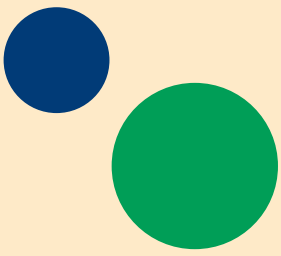
Free support to groups or individuals considering starting a social enterprise!

"A social enterprise is a business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners."

3SE Social Enterprise Start-Up Programme

In association with the North West Development Agency, 3SE is offering a menu of support services for individuals as well as voluntary and community groups who are looking at the social enterprise model to develop trading activities. 3SE's Start-Up Support Programme has been developed specifically for you. Services can be accessed as stand alone elements or used together to help you to move your enterprise idea forward, help you to start up a social business or make your community group more enterprising. The CVS are offering a FREE one day course looking at how to be a social enterprise, whether to become one and what it entails. If you would like to attend this course please complete a booking form and send to CVS.





The programme includes :

- Free New Start Workshop programme with one to one session to help organisations develop a business plan and business case
- Free Consultancy/ Specialist Support in the area of their choice, it could be a feasibility study, marketing strategy, legal structure, or others.
- Free Mentoring
- Free Complimentary services - access to a range of support available to the sector
- Free Study visits to a key number of social enterprises in GM, including Environmental sector, Health and Social Care , Community Activities.

For further details on the services and help to complete the start-up application form please do not hesitate to call us on 0161 237 4444 or visit www.3se.org.uk.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity! It's first come first served - applications must be submitted by mid-February 2007

If you would like to attend this course please complete a booking form and post to the CVS offices.

Social Enterprise – Should You Be One? How to be One
Monday 23rd April, 10am-4 pm
St Mary's Church Hall, Warrington Road, Ince

The CVS are offering a **FREE** one day course looking at Social Enterprises.

DISCLOSURE OF COMPANY DETAILS

From 1 January 2007, the Companies Act 1985 rules relating to the information that must be on company documents are amended and explicitly extended to include order forms, electronic documents and websites.

Business letters and order forms—whether in hard copy, electronic or other form—and all of the company's websites must include the company's full name, its place of registration, its company number, the address of its registered office, and in the case of a company exempt from the requirement to use "limited" as part of its name, the fact that it is a limited company.

These details do not need to be on every page of a website, but they do need to be "legible", which means they can't be in tiny print. Many emails that go out of the company are likely to be classed as business letters, so all outgoing emails should include a footer with all the required disclosures.

The company's full name, but not the other details, must be on all of its notices (of meetings etc) and other official publications, cheques, orders for money or goods purporting to be signed by or on behalf of the company, bills of exchange, promissory notes, invoices, receipts, bills of parcels and letters of credit—whether in hard copy, electronic or other form.

Where a company is being wound up, whether voluntarily or by the court, a statement that it is being wound up must be included on every invoice, order for goods, business letter or order form—whether hard copy, electronic or any other form—and all of its websites.

The Companies (Registrar, Languages and Trading Disclosures) Regulations 2006 are at www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/20063429.htm.



Are you involved in a Dance Group in the Wigan Borough? If so Wigan Leisure Culture Trust need your help!

Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust is seeking the views of the public on dance development in our Borough.

We want to hear from every type of dance enthusiast and dance provider in every corner of Wigan Borough. If you're involved in ballet, after school dance clubs, b-boying, contemporary dance, dance with older people or anywhere in between we want to hear from you.



Contact Vicky Thomas, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust's Dance Project Co-ordinator for a copy of the questionnaire (tel: 01942 486 922 or email: v.thomas@wlct.org) Or you can access it on the Trust website: www.wlct.org/arts.

GET HELP WITH COMPLETING MONITORING FORMS – FREE!

Get help and advice on completing monitoring & evaluation forms, where to go for funding and completing a funding application as well as help with setting up or developing a voluntary group.

Grant Officers and Development Workers from Douglas Valley, Wigan MBC and Wigan & Leigh CVS will be there to answer all your questions and work with you, so don't miss out!

No booking required – just turn up! Read on for dates, times and your nearest venue!

Scholes & Whelley Community Centre

Sunshine House Scholes Precinct, Wigan WN1 3SN

Wednesday 14th February 2007 – 12 noon to 2 pm

Worsley Mesnes North Community Centre

Worsley Mesnes Drive, Wigan WN3 3SN

Tuesday 20th March 2007 – 12 noon to 2 pm



Contact Deborah Lea at Douglas Valley Community Limited for more info:

Telephone: 01942 517803 ext 710

Email: d.lea@dvcommunity.org.uk

J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust

'The trust aims to fund projects to alleviate poverty and misery in general, and unpopular causes in particular, within the UK. The emphasis is on self-help and enabling people to reach their potential. The trustees favour small community and local projects which make good use of volunteers.

There are four main beneficial areas:

- social welfare
- therapeutic use of the arts
- conservation
- environment

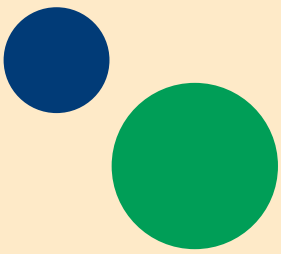
Grants, usually for running or project costs, are often for three-year periods and can be for up to a usual maximum of about £30,000. There are also a large number of small grants of £2,000 or less.

Most of the funding is given to social welfare. Grants are usually in the £5,000 to £15,000 range, for both capital and revenue. Those for salaries or running costs can be repeated on an annual basis for a maximum of three years. Some small grants of up to £2,000 are also made in between the quarterly trustee meetings.

Priority is likely to be given to projects in the less prosperous parts of the country, and to those which cover more than one beneficial area.

We only accept applications by post. A letter no more than two sides long is all that is necessary at first.





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Applications can be made to the administrator at any time. There are no 'closing dates', and all letters of appeal will be answered, we hope within six weeks.

Contact:

Ms Bridget O'Brien Twohig - Administrator

1 Park Square West

London NW1 4LJ

020 7486 1859

<http://www.jpgettytrust.org.uk>

REMEMBER! I can help with: Setting up a management committee, Different types of structures for groups, Roles and responsibilities of committee members, Producing a constitution, Becoming a registered charity, Funding, Form filling, and more! I can also travel to meet you to discuss any of these issues! Please call me on 01 942 514 234!



If you have a story or article relating to development or funding you'd like me to include in the next issue of inVOLve on the Groups Development page, please contact me by emailing lbrown@cvswl.org.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Testing times!

Why not come along to the monthly Borough Wide Community Network meeting. You can prove your wisdom at the start of each meeting by taking part in the local heritage quiz. If you have an interest in the heritage of Wigan and Leigh then why not come along to your nearest Borough Wide meeting and find out how you can help the heritage network.

Pick your brains.

The Community Empowerment Programme only has 12 months left in operation. Of course, we want the current networks we support to continue operating after our departure and need your input to help this happen. You can assist us by thinking how you would like the network you sustain to look and operate by 2008. You can have your input by completing the online questionnaire at www.wiganvoices.com , posting back the hard copy you should recently have received or contacting Emma Scott on 01 942 686238.

'Celebrating success'.

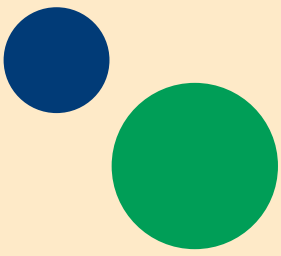
Following the success of last years disability event a date has been set to have a disABILITY Day 'Celebrating Success'. This has been arranged for Monday 5 March at the JJB Stadium, Wigan. The day will provide information, advice and practical support for people with a disability, their family and carer. If a voluntary group or organisation is interested in having a stand please get in touch by calling Andrew Heathman on 01 942 686237.



Dates for your diary.

The network meeting dates for 2007 are now available. You can either view them online at www.wiganvoices.com or contact 01 942 686236 for a hard copy.





TRAINING

Training is vital to everyone in an organisation both paid staff and volunteers. The training on offer with Wigan and Leigh CVS will help your group to acquire new skills, knowledge and understanding which will help with sustainability, funding and promotion of your organisation or group.

We appreciate that all training is an investment in terms of time and money however if the course is right for you then what you get out of it will be tenfold. To help you to decide, we have a directory '**Unleashing Your Potential**' which gives you a brief outline of the course and its aim and objectives. This way you can have confidence that your valuable time and money is used on the Training and Development that will meet your needs most. All of the training and development opportunities included within this directory are designed to cover many of the key practical and personal skills required to work effectively in the voluntary and community sector, from Managing Fundraising and Project Planning to Communication Skills and Presentation Skills.



If you have not yet had your copy or you would like another please contact Wendy on 01942 514234 or email wmsaied@cvswl.org

This year we have also added some '**Accredited Courses**' these are courses that offer an **Open College Network Certificate** at either **Level 1** (comparable to NVQ 1 or GCSE's) or **Level 3** (comparable to NVQ 3 or A Level). This is a nationally recognised certificate that staff and volunteers can use for their development and C.V. All the help and support as well as the resources needed for these courses and producing the evidence to gain the accreditation are provided. An 'Accredited Course' is highlighted with an 'A' next to the title for the costing code and all these courses, irrelevant to how many days they run over, are charged at the one price of **£50 to non members and £25 to members**.

Calendar for February & March

February

February 8th Thursday 10 am – 4 pm

Leadership Skills

Haigh Hall **FD**

February 13th & 14th, 20th & 21st Tuesday & Wednesday
10 am – 4 pm

Training the Trainer

St Mary's Church Hall—Ince **A**

Feb 24th Saturday 10 am – 3 pm

Volunteer Management

Dam House **FREE**

Feb 27th Tuesday 10 am – 4 pm

Management Committees, Members & Trustees

St. Mary's Excellence Centre—Leigh **FD**

March

March 7th Wednesday 1 pm – 4 pm

A Guide for Frustrated Internet Users

The Equal Project, Ince **HD**

March 13th Tuesday 10 am – 3 pm

Budgeting for Beginners

Lowton Civic Hall **FREE**

March 17th Saturday 10 am – 12 pm

Preparing to Volunteer

Dam House—Astley **FREE**

March 27th Tuesday 10 am – 3 pm

Communication Skills

Robin Park—Wigan **FD**



HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAMME

Hello readers

As the Healthy Living Programme gradually draws to an end, I thought it would be useful to focus on one of the many successes of the programme – The Community Champions Project.

The original idea behind the project was to recruit a large team of volunteers (over 200!!) who would represent their local communities to ensure health services responded to the needs of residents. Unsurprisingly, this was viewed as somewhat unrealistic, and in December 2003, CVS recruited a small team of part time staff. After a 12 week period of training (big thanks to Nicky Monaghan & Linda Adhana from the PCT), the project was

launched with a series of Health Awareness Days.

One of the key messages from these days was that many residents of the Borough wanted to know more about ways of improving their health. A quick glance at the health statistics of the Borough indicates that Ince experiences more health inequalities than other parts of the Borough, and by working closely with Public Health (thanks Helen Turner and Nicky Monaghan) the Ince Food Team was created. The launch (opened by Wigan and England rugby legend Phil Clarke) was attended by a large number of local residents who gained valuable information on a range of local health services.

Since the launch, a wide range of activities and projects have been developed and supported including:-



The launch of the Community Champion's Project. Lynne, Malcolm, Ann and Eileen met the Mayor at Ince Community Centre.

Cook and Taste group – whereby members of a parent and toddler group learnt to cook nutritious, tasty meals on a budget.

New Weighs – weight management classes where people learned about diet, nutrition and exercise.

Health Walks – a group for people to join in local walks.

5-A Day – the team attended local events and encouraged people to understand the benefits of eating more fruit and vegetables.

Food Mapping – supported by Andrea Monteith, the group researched the barriers to healthy eating. This helped inform the group as to what activities would help improve people's health.

Ince Rosebridge Sports and Community Club – the team worked with this group to produce a Rule Book for the rugby club members. The book contained information on diet and healthy eating for sports people.

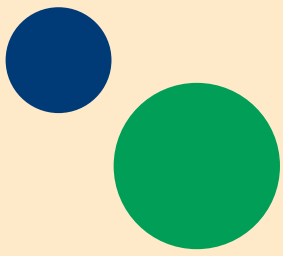
Snap Cards – the team produced a pack of snap cards so that parents and carers could play card games with children whilst encouraging the child to start to learn about food and healthy eating.

As the project reaches its conclusion, the workers are completing the Cook and Taste Recipe Book – due for completion in January 2007. The book will contain recipes tried and tested by the Cook and Taste groups and early indications are that the book will be a major success – watch out Jamie Oliver!!

The Community Champions team are Lynne Silcock, Eileen Howard, Ann Naylor and Don Mitchell. Can I say a **"big thank you"** to you all and good luck for the future.

Mick Taylor
Healthy Living Programme Co-ordinator





Information Sharing Index

I'm sure this isn't the most interesting topic you have come across recently but as it is going to affect every child in the borough perhaps you should read on...

What is it?

Wigan Children's Services applied to be an early adopter of the Index. Its purpose is to hold basic information on every child living in the borough. This means anyone working with that child can find out who else is involved. The reason for setting it up comes from the Victoria Climbié case where many different professionals were working with the same child but were not aware of each other.

What is on it?

There will be basic information only, which will include child's name, date of birth, name of person with parental responsibility, address, school and the names of any practitioners working with the child e.g. health visitor. This index is not to be confused with any database holding details of children considered to be at risk. Information Sharing Index will eventually contain info on every child living in the borough.

Who will have access to it?

Access will be restricted to those working with children/young people in the borough (practitioners). The list is still under discussion but examples include: teacher, healthcare professional, social care worker. Every person who has access will have to possess an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check. They will have to undergo training and access is likely to be closely monitored.

For how long will the information be retained?

It is proposed that information relating to practitioners is kept for twelve months after their involvement is ceased, but that they can request for the information to be kept for up to five years if they think it is appropriate. Once it is considered no longer appropriate, material will be archived (with restricted access) for a period of six years.

Will the information be accurate?

The Data Protection Act contains a clause that requires every person supplying information to make sure it is and remains accurate. In the case of a child's death it is intended to record the date of death so as to avoid any enquiries to the family. It is intended to operate a complaints procedure relating to both access and accuracy.

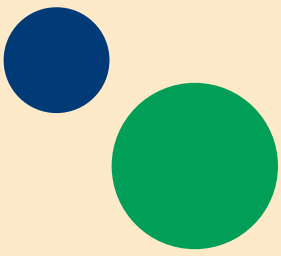
Where does the Voluntary/Community Sector fit in to this?

This is where it gets interesting! In the draft regulations the VCS are "permitted" to disclose information. It is quite possible that organisations with service level agreements will be expected to provide such information. Discussions are ongoing about how this will be done within Wigan Borough – CVS have suggested a mediated approach where organisations don't want access, they are able to contact a named person within Children's Services who will update the index on their behalf.



You are welcome to contact us at CVS on 01942 51423 for more information as and when it becomes statutory in 2007. We will then have a better idea of how the VCS is expected to contribute. We will also keep you informed through the newsletter and the CVS website www.cvswl.org





The Coalfields Project is a new initiative from Youth Federation, which aims to build capacity within voluntary sector youth groups in Hindley, Leigh East & West and Tyldesley and other identified wards across the North West; the project has been funded through Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

The Youth Federation is a youth charity with a long history of supporting and developing voluntary sector youth groups across Cheshire and Warrington, using this experience we hope to support similar groups in Hindley, Leigh East & West and Tyldesley.

The project will support the work of youth groups by offering advice on policies and best practice when working with young people, as well as giving support to develop services. There are also lots of free training opportunities available, for both staff and volunteers.

These include a 10 week youth work skills course which covers a broad range of issues affecting work with children and young people including Child Protection, Programme Planning, Equal Opportunities, Youth Participation, Volunteer Rights and Responsibilities, Dealing with Aggressive Behaviour, Ice Breakers and Games.

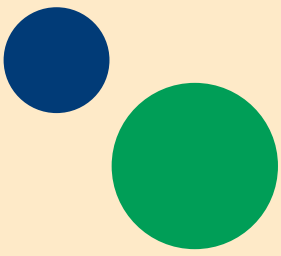
If you are interested in accrediting the achievements of the young people who you work with, the project offers free access to the nationally recognised Youth Achievement Award Scheme.

This includes training to deliver the Youth Achievement Awards, and follow up support and guidance for those who then begin to deliver the awards.

Another exciting part of the project includes identifying young people who would like to become Peer Educators within their group or centre. This involves undertaking training and support for young people, recognition for volunteering and the opportunity to take part in a residential with other peer educators from across the Northwest.



If you think you or you're group could benefit from this project, please contact Sarah Lanchin, Development Worker (07774) 645536 or email sarahl@youthfed.org



CVS Environment Section

With the new release on DVD of the Global Warming film 'An Inconvenient Truth', we here at CVS, thought it would be a good idea to take a look at Global Warming and also take a closer look at this fascinating and startling documentary, in which former Vice President Al Gore presents a compelling look at the state of global warming.

Gore has been a student of climate change since the 1960s. He knows his subject, he has done his homework, and he presents a compelling case for urgent and immediate action to turn back global warming.

(Source: www.environment.about.com)

"'An Inconvenient Truth' offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man's fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress in its tracks by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it. That man is former American Vice President Al



Gore, who, in the wake of defeat in the 2000 election, re-set the course of his life to focus on a last-ditch, all-out effort to help save the planet from irrevocable change. In this eye-opening and poignant portrait of Gore and his "travelling global warming show," Gore also proves himself to be one of the most misunderstood characters in modern American public life. Here he is seen as never before in the media - funny, engaging, open and downright on fire about getting the surprisingly stirring truth about what he calls our "planetary emergency" out to ordinary citizens before it's too late."

(Source: www.climatecrisis.net)

WHAT IS GLOBAL WARMING?

Carbon dioxide and other gases warm the surface of the planet naturally by trapping solar heat in the atmosphere. This is a good thing because it keeps our planet habitable. However, by burning fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil and clearing forests we have dramatically increased the amount of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere and temperatures are rising.

The vast majority of scientists agree that global warming is real, it's already happening and that it is the result of our activities and not a natural occurrence. The evidence is overwhelming and undeniable.

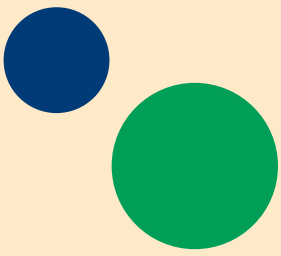
We're already seeing changes. Glaciers are melting, plants and animals are being forced from their habitat, and the number of severe storms and droughts is increasing.

What Can We Do?

At CVS, we are trying to implement increased car-sharing when travelling to meetings. Surface transport is responsible for about a quarter of the UK's emissions of CO₂ – and this is forecast to rise in the future. In the past 30 years traffic on our roads has more than doubled.

Here are some simple, practical things you can do to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide you produce while on the move:





Car Share. Do you need to drive your child to school? Sharing the school-run with a roster of parents is a great way to cut congestion, reduce emissions and save on your fuel bill. Another idea is to share lifts to work. Alternatively you can ask your employer to do something to encourage lower car use, such as provide showers for cyclists to use or run minibuses from local stations.

Give your car a day off! Can you find a way to make your journey to work on foot, by bike or using public transport, for a few days a week? Make a day of it and cycle or walk instead!

Change your driving style. Changing gear at a more modest engine speed can reduce fuel consumption by up to 15 per cent. When you are approaching traffic lights, slow down progressively rather than continuing at the same speed and suddenly braking; harsh acceleration and braking can use up to 30% more fuel and can lead to increased wear and tear on the vehicle. Plus, pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel

Small is beautiful. If you have to drive, a small, fuel-efficient car will produce less polluting emissions than a gas-guzzling 4x4 – and will be cheaper to run as well. Be aware though that although diesel cars tend to produce less CO₂, they do produce more of other pollutants, which aggravate asthma and other health problems.

Change your fuel. Many cars can use biofuels with little or no modification to the engine. Biofuels are produced from crops such as oil seed rape or sugar beet, and burning them produces lower emissions of climate-changing gases.

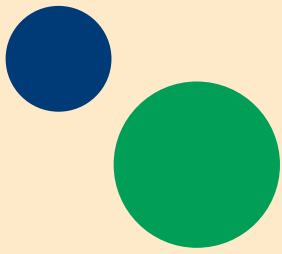
Keep your car tyres properly inflated. It's estimated that up to 80 per cent of car tyres are under-inflated, which can increase fuel consumption, and therefore emissions, by up to 5 per cent – as well as increasing wear and tear.

Drive with the windows up. This reduces drag, thus increasing your fuel consumption efficiency and lowering your emissions. Drag can also be lessened by removing heavy items and roof racks from the vehicle when you don't need to carry them

Switch off the engine if you think you will be stationary for more than two minutes. Idling for this long burns more fuel than it takes to restart the engine.

(Source: Friends of the Earth - www.foe.co.uk)





Free, easy and simple fundraiser for your organisation

Free, easy and simple fundraiser for your organisation

FoneAid is a fantastic fundraising initiative, which will help you raise money for anything that your voluntary organisation needs without costing you a penny.

The concept of FoneAid is very simple, but it delivers big rewards for any volunteers looking to raise money. All you need to do is collect mobile phones of any age and condition and in return you'll receive £3.00 per phone. On top of this, FoneAid donate £100.00 of vouchers for every 100 phones collected, so making money for your organisation couldn't be easier.

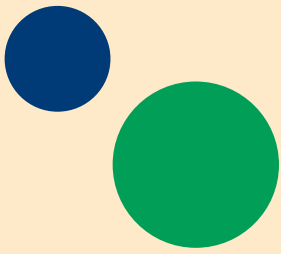
The campaign has already been endorsed by The Irish FA and Macclesfield Town Football Club and others look set to follow. Jef Tyler, Sales Manager at MTFC said; "We are delighted to have joined FoneAid to raise money for the club. It is a fantastic joint venture that we would recommend to any organisation as a way of raising funds by getting the community and supporters to hand in unwanted mobile phones of any age and condition. FoneAid have been very successful in implementing this venture and Macclesfield Town are delighted to be the first of many organisations to participate"

FoneAid guarantee that every phone is either reused in developing countries or recycled. In addition 100% of the phones collected are diverted from landfill sites where they can cause serious environmental problems. The campaign is completely free to participate in, as FoneAid provide all the promotional material and even courier the phones back to the warehouse at the end of the campaign.

Pete Petrondas, chief executive said; "FoneAid is aimed at any group or voluntary organisation who wants to raise money. Even if the phones don't work and are in a poor condition, FoneAid will still donate £3.00 to your organisation for every single one of them. There are around 100 million old and unused mobile phones lying around homes in the UK and with no cost to take part FoneAid is a fantastic fundraising idea."



Simply register your organisations' details on the website www.foneaid.org.uk, or call 01625 667867, and receive all the materials needed to run your collection.



CVS Departments

Management Team

Contact Details:

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Ruth Walkden - Assistant Chief Officer

Tel: 01942 514234 Email: rwalkden@cvswh.org

Black and Minority Ethnic Development - BME

To provide help and support to Black and Minority Ethnic in our community.

Contact Details:

Shakirah Ullah - BME Development Worker

Tel: 01942 686243 Email: sullah@cvswh.org

Wendy Martland-Saied - Administration Worker

Tel: 01942 514234 Email: wmsaied@cvswh.org

Community Empowerment Programme - CEP

A project of networks to improve local decision making through community involvement.

Contact Details:

Emma Scott - CEP Coordinator

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Andrew Heathman

- CEP Development Worker

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Helen Smith - CEP Administration Worker

Tel: 01942 514234 Email: hsmith@wiganvoices.com

Justine Barker - CEP Administration Worker

Tel: 01942 514234 Email: jbarker@wiganvoices.com

Children and Young People's Team - CYP

To provide help and support to groups that centre around Children and Young People

Contact Details:

Ruth Walkden - CYP Coordinator

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Catherine Akhurst - CYP Development Worker

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Carol Lea - CYP Development Worker

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Laura Peers - CYP Administration Worker

Tel: 01942 514234 Email: lpeers@cvswh.org

Nicola Clarke - CYP Development Worker

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Friendly Faces - FF

Befriending service for newly arrived asylum seekers and migrants

Contact Details:

Rebecca Ehata - FF Mentoring Project Manager

Tel: 01942 235025 Email: r.ehata@cvswh.org

Marie Ashton - FF Administration Worker

Tel: 01942 235022 Email: mashton@cvswh.org

Shelagh Linde - FF Administration Worker

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Groups Development

To provide help and support to voluntary and community groups including accessing funding

Contact Details:

Louise Brown - Groups Development Worker

Tel: 01942 514234 Email: lbrown@cvswh.org

Healthy Living Project - HLP

To help the community to be more aware of healthy living.

Contact Details:

Mick Taylor - Healthy Living Coordinator

Tel: 01942 514234 Email: mick@wefeelgood.net

Kevin Sutton - ICT Development Worker

Tel: 01942 514234 Email: kevin@wefeelgood.net

Ann Naylor, Eileen Howard, Lynne Silcock

& Don Mitchell - Community Champions

Tel: 01942 514234

Training and Development - T&D

To provide a Rolling Programme of training courses to meet the needs of the community.

Contact Details:

General Email: training@cvswh.org

Claire Ross - Training Manager

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Carol Lea - Training Officer

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Wendy Martland-Saied - Administration Worker

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inVOLVE

CHARITIES ACT SUPPLEMENT

The Charities Act

We have been following the Charities Bill through parliament for a long, long time. It's now passed through all its stages and become the Charities Act. We have summarised the main points below, what we don't know yet is when the changes will start happening. We will let you know when we do!

The Charities Act 2006 became law on 8th November. It's a massive piece of charity legislation, reflecting both the changes in society and the charitable sector over the last decade. We haven't mentioned every point in the summary below, it's just too big a document for that.

The act won't be implemented in one block as some of it requires more legislation, it will be rolled in starting early 2007.

New descriptions of charitable purposes

The Act defines a charity as a body or trust which

- Is for a charitable purpose, and
- Is for the public benefit

It includes descriptions of the main purposes which are charitable:

- the prevention or relief of poverty
- the advancement of education
- the advancement of religion
- the advancement of health or the saving of lives
- the advancement of citizenship or community development
- the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science
- the advancement of amateur sport
- the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity
- the advancement of environmental protection or improvement
- the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage
- the advancement of animal welfare
- the promotion of the efficiency of the armed forces of the Crown; or the efficiency of the police, fire and rescue services or ambulance services, and;
- any other purposes charitable in law

This list covers the majority of purposes which are already charitable; the last category means that everything which is currently charitable is included.

Providing public benefit

The Act says that all charities must exist for the public benefit, and the Charity Commission has a new objective to promote understanding and awareness of this public benefit requirement.

New thresholds for registration

For would-be registered charities the new income level for registration will be £5,000. Existing charities under this threshold will be able to ask to be removed from the register, but they'll still remain charities and have to abide by charity law.

Excepted charities

Over the years some groups of charities were excepted from registering with the Commission. Examples include some religious charities, Boy Scout and Girl Guide charities and some armed forces charities.

The Act will require some of these charities to register with the Commission. Initially only excepted charities with an annual income of £100k or over will have to register. Those under the £100k threshold won't have to register but will come under their jurisdiction.

Freedom for smaller charities to evolve and change

Under previous legislation, charities could make changes to their purposes through resolutions agreed with the Charity Commission. The new Act liberalises and extends these powers. It allows smaller, unincorporated (non-company) charities with income of less than £10k a year to take certain actions, outlined in this section, without having to go to the Commission for permission. They will still want copies of the resolutions passed by the trustees to make these changes.

Changing a charity's purposes

They can also replace their charity's purposes with new purposes that make more sense in today's society as long as the changes are consistent with what the charity was set up to do. So, for example, a charity set up to relieve sickness can update its purposes to participate in a health promotion scheme to encourage healthy living.

Amending administration rules

The Act gives the trustees of all non-company charities power to pass a resolution to alter the parts of their charity's governing document which set out how they administer their charity, for example the number of trustees needed to form a quorum at meetings. They will only need to use this power if it is not already included in the charity's governing document.

Charitable companies must go to the Commission to get prior consent if they want to make changes to their memorandum and articles of association. The Act cuts down the occasions where they'll have to seek their permission before making these changes, helping these charities make amendments more quickly and easily.

New structure for charitable companies

Charities which want a corporate structure currently have to register both as charities and as companies, which means they have to meet the dual regulatory burdens of both the Charity Commission and Companies House. The Act creates a new vehicle for these charities – the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

A CIO will have the advantages of a corporate structure, such as reduced personal liability for trustees, without the burden of dual regulation. Creating CIO's will require additional legislation which means this part of the act will not come into force until early 2008. Some organisations presently considering becoming charitable companies will now have to make some decisions as to move now or delay until 2008.

Payment of trustees

The Act does not allow trustees to be paid for being trustees. Voluntary trusteeship still remains a key principle of charity. However, the Act allows trustees to pay an individual trustee for providing an additional service to the charity – if they think it's in the best interest of the charity – without having to go to the Commission for authorisation to do so.

Important points to remember:

- the number of trustees receiving payment in this way must be in a minority
- the amount paid must be reasonable and set out in a written agreement between the trustee and the charity; and
- the trusts or governing document must not contain any specific provision forbidding this type of payment

Relief from personal liability for trustees

Recruiting new trustees can be made harder if potential trustees are worried they may be personally liable for mistakes they make which put the charity's assets at risk. Before the Act, only the courts could relieve trustees of this sort of liability. The Act allows charity trustees to apply to the Charity Commission, as well as the courts, for relief from personal liability for a breach of trust where the trustee has acted honestly and reasonably. This obviously only applies where mistakes have been honestly made. The Commission and the courts will still take deliberate breaches of trust by trustees very seriously.

Trustee indemnity insurance

Trustee indemnity insurance covers trustees from having to personally pay out when claims are made against them, such as health and safety breaches which cause an employee injury, as long as the mistake was honestly made, not the result of wilful misconduct. In practice, trustees are not held liable in this way for honest mistakes but anxiety about the possibility may have made people reluctant to become trustees. There was also the issue that the charity's funds should not be used to pay for insurance which would benefit trustees. The Act allows trustees to take out trustee indemnity insurance using the charity's funds, as long as there's no provision in the charity's governing document which specifically forbids this. If there is a specific prohibition in the charity's governing document then trustees will need to go to the Charity Commission so that they can amend this before they can buy trustee indemnity insurance.

Accounts

Changing the threshold for professional audit and independent examination

The Act simplifies the rules about when a professional audit is required and gives both charities which are companies and those which aren't, similar thresholds.

A non-company charity's accounts will have to be professionally audited if it has:

- gross annual income over £500k; or
- an aggregate value of assets over £2.8 million and gross annual income over £100k

Below this threshold, for non-company charities, an independent examiner can be used instead of an auditor. An independent examination is not required if the charity's income is below £10,000. If the income is above £250,000 then the independent examiner must have an appropriate accountancy qualification. For charities which are companies, accounts will have to be professionally audited if the charity has:

- gross annual income over £500k; or
- a balance sheet total (aggregate assets) over £2.8m.

Charitable companies with an income between £90k and £500k and assets of £2.8 m or less are not required to have their accounts audited if they provide an accountant's report. For a charitable company with income of £90,000 or less then neither a professional audit nor an accountant's report is required unless its assets are over £2.8m

Public charitable collections

The Act provides for a new system for licensing charitable collections in public. It applies to all such collections, including face-to-face fundraising, involving requests for direct debits. There is a new role for the Charity Commission in checking whether charities and other organisations are fit and proper to carry out public collections and they will be responsible for issuing public collections certificates, valid for up to five years.

Collections in public places

Previous legislation referred to 'street' collections. The Act extends this to collections in 'public places' which includes some privately owned land, such as railway station ticket halls and supermarket forecourts. Once a charity has a public collections certificate it will be able to apply to a local authority for a permit to hold collections at certain times in certain places in that local authority area. Local authorities will ensure that there are not too many collections taking place at the same time, in the same place.

Door to door collections

Previous legislation referred to 'house to house' collections. The Act refers instead to 'door to door' collections, to make clear that this includes business premises.

A charity with a public collections certificate will be able to conduct door to door collections without permission from a local authority, but it must inform the local authority that the collection is taking place.

Summary

This is intended to be a brief outline of some of the points in the new act. No doubt that in the near future, organisations such as the Charity Commission will provide information giving more detail of how the changes will happen and also when!

The information given here was taken from the Charity Commission website.

www.charitycommission.gov.uk and the Cabinet Office Charities Act 2006 Implementation Plan.