



FEBRUARY 09 EDITION

InVOLve

**Welcome to our February 2009 edition of
Wigan & Leigh CVS's newsletter, InVOLve!**

At CVS we are committed to supporting the voluntary and community groups we work with in ways which are most appropriate for you. Does our newsletter meet your needs?

Would you and your group prefer to receive it by email or post? Please let us know so that we can improve the service we provide.

Contact:

info@cvswl.org or 01942 514 234 and ask for Louise

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Voluntary Sector News!

Third of donors 'will give less in next six months'

Giving trends make gloomy reading for charities

A third of donors in the UK intend to give less to charity over the next six months, according to new research.

The figures from the Charitable Giving Report, by marketing firm Tangible Response, also show that almost half do not plan to change their level of giving.

Thirty-three per cent of donors surveyed in December said they intended to give less over the next six months – up four percentage points on the previous month. Forty-six per cent said their giving would remain unchanged.

Charity email newsletters 'a waste of time', says Obama strategist

Email newsletters to supporters are a waste of time and effort and should be ditched by charities, according to Barack Obama's digital strategist, Thomas Gensemer.

Speaking at a presentation at City University in London this week, Gensemer, urged organisations to instead send short, personalised emails to supporters giving clear instructions for participation.

"Email newsletters don't get read, yet they take more effort to prepare than a 250-word email," he said. "Email is still a killer application, but only when used properly."

Gensemer urged organisations to promote their causes by adopting the digital media principles of the 'Obama for America' presidential campaign, which raised more than \$500m (£350m) in donations from more than three million individual donors online. Volunteers created more than 30,000 groups online and organised more than 200,000 offline campaign events leading up to last November's election.

Fundraising and participation tactics included sending regular, short emails to supporters asking recipients to do one thing that day. Each email also told the supporter what their action would accomplish and what would happen next.

Thanks to: The Third Sector Daily Bulletin.

Read more at: <http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/>



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Voluntary Sector News (Continued)

Spend Reserves to Defeat Recession

Charities should consider spending reserves to maintain core services and management capacity during recession says Mike Hudson*, author of *Managing Without Profit*, a guide to leading, managing and governing third sector organisations.

“The third sector is better placed to overcome the recession than the private sector because its business model is based on holding reserves, not on borrowing. Reserves exist as a buffer so now may be the time to use them so that you are well positioned for the inevitable upturn,” he said.

“Board members and managers must recognise that reserves exist to cushion organisations when times are tough. If income is one of the determinants of a reserves policy and the organisation is anticipating a temporary fall, then reserves can be dipped into to ensure long term success.”

But Hudson warns that accessing reserves should not be employed as a strategy to avoid tough decisions.

“Managers must still find efficiency savings and pursue opportunities to form new strategic partnerships, such as merging back office functions with other organisations. These decisions can be taken boldly in the current climate.”

Thanks to: The Directory of Social Change (DSC)

Read more at: www.dsc.org.uk

**Mike Hudson is Director of Compass Partnership, a group of management consultants which works exclusively with nonprofit organisations.*



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Fairtrade Fortnight

23rd February – 8th March 2009
is Fairtrade Fortnight

The two-week annual campaign will highlight global inequalities in trade and promote Fairtrade products.

Hundreds of Fairtrade Towns, Churches and Schools around the UK will promote Fairtrade at a regional level. Last year an estimated 12,000 separate activities and events took place during Fairtrade Fortnight, reflecting the diverse range of supporters across the country – everything from Fairtrade parades, concerts and debates to coffee mornings, fashion shows and family days. In 2009, the Fairtrade Foundation expects to scale up this activity and reach an even greater number of people.

To join and get a copy of the Fairtrade Fortnight 2009 Action Guide go to:
http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/resources/downloadable_resources.aspx

What is Fairtrade?

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers.

Is Wigan Fairtrade?

Wigan was awarded Fairtrade Town status in February 2007 this was achieved by 20 cafes and 32 retailers stocking Fairtrade products and promoting Fairtrade throughout Wigan.

Wigan has a Wigan Borough Co-Op Members Fairtrade Group, for more information, visit: <http://www.wiganfairtrade.org.uk/>



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vinvolved team
national youth volunteering programme

Supported by
V Inspiring
a million
more young
volunteers

The Wigan and Leigh CVS vinvolved team has been very busy since it began in May 2008. We have been promoting volunteering to young people across the borough and currently have over 200 on the database, many of whom are volunteering. We have also been working with lots of different types of groups and organisations to develop a wide variety of exciting opportunities.

We have been aiming to develop one-off opportunities as a kind of taster session for young volunteers so that they can try volunteering to see if it suits them and they can get involved in their community without having to dedicate lots of time. Such voluntary opportunities include a flower planting session, a charity coffee morning and a fashion customising workshop.

Here is one example of a successful one-off volunteering opportunity, written from the point of view of one of the young volunteers who gave her time:

Jenny's Story: A volunteering experience at Nugent Care Lime House, Lowton

November 2008

"Today I went to Nugent Care, Lime House, a home for older people in Lowton. We went as volunteers with two other girls and one boy. We started with Francesca, the vinvolved Youth Volunteering Advisor, explaining to us basic health and safety issues before we left. I was nervous before I went because it was the first time I have ever done volunteering and I didn't know what to expect.



We filled jars with sweets, and different Christmas decorations. We then covered the jars with material, and they looked really nice! (They were going to be sold on a Christmas stall and the money to be given to charity). We helped the women to make the jars whilst a man sang and his son played guitar.



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It was a great experience, and I had a time that I know I will never forget. I was sitting with three women, one of them I was particularly fond of, called Enid. She was a lovely woman and made my time there fantastic. One thing that I thought was great was when the man singing forgot the words, and he asked the women for help. One of the women, who did not have much of a voice, sang along as best she could. Everything was silent as she sang apart from the guitar strumming along quietly in the background and I thought it was beautiful.

Everything I am writing seems really cheesy, but it is all true and I would not have missed it for the world." *Written by Jenny Sutton*

If you know any young people aged 16-25 who you think would like to volunteer and would benefit from such an experience then contact Francesca Slattery, the Youth Volunteer Advisor.

Or perhaps you feel like you could benefit from having young volunteers in your organisation to add value to your services. If so contact Catherine Akehurst, the Youth Volunteering Development Worker, to get advice and guidance on how to engage young volunteers in your group.

01942 496738

07593544223

fslattery@cvswl.org

cakehurst@cvswl.org

involved@cvswl.org

**Pennyhurst Mill
Haig Street
Wigan
WN3 4AZ
(opposite Wigan Pier)**



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The Training Team

Funding has been awarded from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust for the Training Team to provide a number of OCN Accredited training courses around volunteering over the next 2 years



Thank you to all who have replied to the Questionnaire we sent out in December asking for your feedback on the training provided over the last 3 years and what accredited training you would be interested in over the coming year.

We are at present analysing the replies we have received and we have listed below some of the more popular courses from your feedback that we are hoping to run over the coming months:

OCN Level 3:

Valuing Your Volunteers

OCN Level 2:

Recruitment and Selection of Volunteers

Supporting & Developing Volunteers

Confidence Building & Assertiveness

Communication Skills

Interpersonal Skills

Funding Strategies and Bid Writing for Voluntary & Community Organisations

A training schedule will be sent out in due course, in the meantime if you have particular training needs for your group or would like to register your interest in any of the above please contact Claire or Wendy at CVS on **01942 514234** or email training@cvswl.org





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Funding News!

Community Foundation for Greater Manchester – Grassroots Grants Programme

Last week Office of the Third Sector announced that they are amending the eligibility criteria of Grassroots Grants with immediate effect.

Originally the fund would only consider applications from organizations with an average income of £20,000 or less. This has now been increased to £30,000 as a way to increase the reach of the fund.

Last week's press release can be seen at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/090210_grassroots.aspx

To apply for a Grassroots Grant of up to £5000, visit:

<http://www.communityfoundation.co.uk/> or call 0161 214 0940

Tesco Charitable Trust

The Tesco Charitable Trust's **Community Awards Scheme** provides one-off donations of between £1,000 and £4,000 to local projects that support children and their education and welfare, elderly people and adults and children with disabilities.

The next deadline for applications for grants for elderly people and adults and children with disabilities is 31st March '09.

For the grant criteria and how to apply,

visit: http://www.tescopl.com/plc/corporate_responsibility/local_communities/community_investment/charitable_giving/tesco_charity_trust/

If you require any support whilst completing your application you can contact the Tesco Charity Trust helpline on 0845 612 3575.



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Funding News!

Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises

The Government today pledged up to £42.5 million to help volunteers, charities and social enterprises deliver extra real help to those that need it most, during the global economic downturn. **Real help for communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises**, delivers a range of initiatives, including:

- Up to £10 million investment in volunteer brokerage scheme for unemployed people creating over 40,000 opportunities for people to learn new skills and give back to communities through volunteering.
- A £15.5 million Community Resilience Fund will provide grant funding to small and medium providers in our most deprived communities.
- A £16.5 million modernisation fund to help with the cost of mergers, partnerships and moves to more efficient sharing of back office functions for at least 3000 third sector organisations.
- A £0.5 million investment in the School for Social Entrepreneurs to double the number of people it trains to become social entrepreneurs, particularly those working in deprived communities.
- A national campaign to raise awareness of the Government's commitment to pay all invoices within 10 days, which will improve cash flow for small organisations.

For further information and to download a copy of the plan, please visit:
http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/real_help_for_communities.aspx

DEADLINES!

BBC Children In Need: 15 April 2009, then: 15 July 2009; and 15 October 09
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/charity/grants-shtml>

Awards for All: Final Deadline under current application process is 31 March 09
<http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/>

Foundation for Sports and the Arts: Final Deadline before the fund closes is 31 March 09
<http://www.thefsa.net>

The Joanies Trust: First 2009 deadline is 31st April 09 (Grants up to £1000 to benefit children 11-25 years.) <http://www.joaniestrust.org.uk>



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CVS' Children & Young People's Groups Development Project – News!

Future Funding for Children and Young People's Organisations

At the recent sub group meeting there was a discussion relating to the funding of groups, mostly, but not solely from Wigan Children and Young People's Services. Many of us remember last year and the decisions coming very late, after some staff had received redundancy notification. After promises that the same wouldn't happen again this year, for many of us its actually worse!

After the meeting we sent out some questionnaires which many of you returned (Thanks for that!) and the responses made grim reading. Ruth sent out a letter outlining the figures for redundancies, organisations at the risk of folding and volunteer opportunities likely to be lost. This letter was sent to the Chief Executive, Director of Children's Services and other figures in the borough and region. We have already had one response from Dave Packwood at VCS Engage who has forwarded the letter on to Government Office North West. We will keep you informed of developments!

If your organisation provides a service for children/young people, your service is at risk through lack of funding and you haven't filled in our survey let us know and we will send one to you, it won't take long to fill in!

Changes in the Child Protection Referral Process

There has been a significant change in the way referrals to the Children in Need Duty Team are made regarding Child Protection issues. From now on, the Children in Need Duty Team will not accept telephone referrals from groups and all referrals should be in writing. This can be done online via the Wigan MBC Website -

www.wigan.gov.uk/Pub/Forms/ProfessionalReferralForm

A Big Thank you for Young People

The young people you work with have made fantastic achievements whether it be in their personal lives, at school or making a difference in their communities and this should be celebrated and recognised locally. CVS are involved in helping to plan a local event for young people and would like yours and young people's feedback.

If you or the young people you work with have any thoughts, ideas or comments on 'What should we celebrate' and 'How should we celebrate it', please contact the involved team.



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Independent Safeguarding Authority

What your organisation needs to know

Many of you will have heard about the new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) scheme but equally many of you may not have done. The ISA is a new system that is due to come into play during 2009. It will sit along side CRB checks as a way of ensuring that employees and volunteers are suitable to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

From October 2009, if you recruit new staff members or volunteers to work with children and young people or vulnerable adults you will have to check their status with the ISA. This will determine whether or not they can be employed or taken on as volunteers with your organisation or which activities they can undertake. If they are not registered with the ISA, they will need to do this before they are allowed to work with any vulnerable people, in the same way that you would currently undertake a CRB check.

Existing staff members and volunteers will also need to be checked by the ISA. This should be done in a phased approach:

- First you should ask those who have not been previously checked by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) to apply for ISA registration.
- Next you should ask those who have been CRB checked to apply, beginning with those who's CRB checks are the oldest

It will be the responsibility of the individual staff member or volunteer to register with the ISA. If they have not applied for registration, you will not be able to employ them and it is your responsibility to check a potential employee or volunteers status.

If a person is not ISA registered, it may be because they have not applied or they may be on the ISA Barred List of people unsuitable to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults.

There will be no charge for checking a persons ISA status and once you have registered your interest in an individual as their employer, you will automatically be contacted if their status changes, i.e. if new information leads to an ISA decision to bar them.



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Independent Safeguarding Authority (Continued...)

Under the new ISA system, work with vulnerable people is classified as either **regulated** or **controlled**.

Regulated activity is when the activity with children, young people or vulnerable adults is:

- frequent (once a month or more) or;
- intensive (takes place on 3 or more days in a 30 day period)

Anyone providing a regulated activity must be registered with the ISA. It will be a criminal offence for an employer to allow a barred individual or an individual who is not yet registered with the ISA to work for any length of time in any regulated activity. This can result in imprisonment or a fine of up to £5,000. It will also be a criminal offence for a barred individual to take part in a regulated activity for any length of time.

Controlled activity is:

- frequent or intensive support work in general health settings, the NHS or further education;
- individuals working for specified organisations (eg local authority) who have frequent access to sensitive records about children, young people or vulnerable adults;
- Support work in adult social care settings;

Employers will be legally obliged to check the ISA status of individuals who undertake controlled activities. It will be possible for employers to permit barred individuals to work in a controlled activity if **sufficient safeguards are put in place** (see the ISA website for more information) -

<http://www.isa.gov.uk>



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Health & Social Care Project Update

Well here we are in 2009 and the Health and Social Care Project has certainly hit the road at full speed. Since the New Year we have been actively involved with Wigan Council in the Worklessness strategy workshops and the Wigan Borough Partnership Convention. We have met the new group of Health Improvement Workers (formally known as Health Trainers), been part of the Big Lottery 'Big Thinking' national consultation (see this e-bulletin for how you can have a say) and delivered targeted training for specific groups.

For a full CVS Health & Social Care Project update, please email Heather for a copy of our Health & Social Care e-bulletin on hlomas@cvswl.org



Focus on... Carers

Carers' Forum and Carers' Centre:

The Carers' Forum and Carers' Centre continue to develop with our support. The Forum now has office bearers in position, has representation at key strategic meetings, such as the Carers' Strategy meetings and is a place where carers can discuss issues and look at ways of finding answers to these issues. If anyone wants to be involved with the Forum then please contact Chris Arkwright at the Carers Helpline on 606086.

The Carers' Centre is developing steadily with potential Carer Centre Trustees receiving roles and responsibilities training, the premises progressing in design and staff recruitment undertaken. For information about the Centre contact Pauline Gregson, Centre Manager, on 705969.



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Health & Social Care Project Update (Continued...)

Training for Carers:

Crossroads Caring for Carers have organised a variety of courses for unpaid carers within the Wigan Borough. To qualify for attendance you have to be an unpaid carer. Pre-booking is essential.

Programme

18th March – 1 day Accredited Manual Handling
2nd, 9th, 16th & 24th April – 4 day Accredited Confidence Building & Assertiveness (level 2)
23 April 2009 - Personalised Budgets facilitated by Caroline Tomlinson of In Control
24th February, 26th February, 7th April, 9th April, 5th May, 7th May, 2nd June, 4th June, 2nd July, 7th July - pamper sessions (30 minutes duration)
1st & 8th May – 2 day Non Accredited Communication Skills
3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th June – 4 day Stress Management (level 2)
10th, 17th, 24th Sept & 29th Oct – 4 day Accredited Challenging Behaviour (level 2)

All sessions will take place at St. Peters Pavilion, Hurst St, Hindley, WN2 3DN. For more details, to discuss respite care needs or to book please contact Pauline on 01744 612929 or email pauline.middlehurst@sthelencrossroads.org.uk .

New Support Group for People with Brain Injuries and their Carers

Pathway Support Network is a support group for people with acquired brain injuries and their families/friends and carers. It has been set up by Josephine, who felt helpless and found limited support and information when she sustained her brain injuries.

If you are interested in knowing about, or becoming involved with the Pathway Support Network in any way then please contact Heather on homas@cvswl.org and she will link you with the group.



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Dog Fouling Campaign

Another Fine Mess

A new campaign to address dog-fouling was launched this January in Leigh.

Identified as a top nuisance issue in countless polls, and a real health hazard as well, dog fouling is being addressed in a scheme bringing together residents and Wigan Council. Costing residents some £60,000 each year from their council tax, dog mess is one of those environmental concerns that can be easily addressed.

Council officers are now working with residents and community groups in their own areas, and at least 40 schools will be visited this year to engage young people on this issue. School pupils are always upset by the mess of dog fouling and the council's education team help them to be aware of the health hazards and how they can act in their own communities.

Every household in hot spot areas will be given a leaflet highlighting the problem. Clear new signs will remind people that wrapped dog mess can go into normal litter bins.

The council's safer neighbourhood manager, Michelle Woodburn, said: "Together we can make our borough a cleaner, greener and safer place to be for all. Officers are getting tough on persistent offenders who don't clear up after their dogs. They are working with Greater Manchester Police, Wigan & Leigh Housing and Wigan Culture & Leisure Trust to enforce the law."

Residents can get advice on how to complete a witness statement for persistent offenders which can lead to a fixed penalty notice of £50 by calling the Environmental Services Helpline on 01942 404364 or send an email to eshelpline@wigan.gov.uk.

The first outlets for the free pooper scoopers are:

- Wigan & Leigh Housing Office, Ridyard Street, Worsley Hall
- Bramble House Community Centre, Broom Road, Worsley Hall
- Wheelchair fund shop, St Paul's Ave, Worsley Mesnes
- Ink 4 U, Worsley Mesnes Precinct (off Worsley Mesnes Drive)
- Post Office 124-126 Warrington Road, Leigh
- R & D Aquis Off Licence, 125 Warrington Road, Leigh
- Gola's News, 320 Holden Road, Leigh
- Varsani General Store & Off License, 105 Firs Lane, Leigh
- Leigh Town Hall
- Leigh Library

The dog fouling campaign will continue across the Borough throughout 2009.



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Events & Training

Train to Gain - Engagement Event

Are you interested in finding out more about what **Train to Gain** can do for you and your organisation?

Interested in signing the **Skills Pledge**?

Would like to find out how to get some **training** for your organisation for **free**?

Then why not **come along** discuss your needs with a Train to Gain Broker?!

Date: Friday 13th March 2009

Time: 13:30 – 15:00

Where: **WCVYS, Penson Street, Wigan, WN1 2LP**

Cost: Free of Charge

How to book: Contact Gill Dixon on 0161 277 1019 or via email gill.dixon@gmcvo.org.uk

Calling all volunteer managers and coordinators

Do you want to debate the role of volunteers in the current sporting landscape and how these dedicated people can be supported? If so, then come along to this year's Sports Volunteering North West (SVNW) Conference!

Things to do:

Check your diary for 28th April 2009

1. Book your place on the Hands Up for Sports Volunteering 2009 Conference
2. Tell your colleagues that you're off to Preston Grasshoppers Rugby Football Club
3. Forward this message to your colleagues who might also be interested in attending this event.

The Hands Up for Sports Volunteering 2009 Conference will include key note speeches from leading figures from across the region and beyond around the key themes of "maximising the impact of 2012", "volunteers underpinning delivery of Whole Sport Plans" and "learning from other voluntary sectors."

To find out more information including programme details and how to secure your place, visit the SVNW website: www.sportsvolunteeringnw.org



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Group Notices

Irish Community Care – Invite

Irish Community Care Merseyside Invites you to the launch of our:

Ashton-in-Makerfield Services
on Friday 6th March 2009 12 noon-3.30pm
at The Brian Boru Club, 55 Bryn Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield

Registration and Lunch 12 noon-1pm

A Great Opportunity to:
Meet Members of the Irish Community and enjoy an afternoon of Irish
culture in music, song and dance

Fáilte Isteach!! - We look forward to seeing you there!

RSVP by 20th February 2009 Tel: 0151 707 4302
Email: maya.stoddart@iccm.org.uk

Standish Community Centre Needs You!

Get involved in helping to run this successful Community Facility

Standish Community Centre is used by many voluntary and community groups based in Standish and is a Community Hub for many residents.

It is also used by other agencies to hold their events and conferences in a friendly and welcoming environment.

The Centre needs volunteer and committee help – if you are interested in getting involved in **volunteering** at the Centre or helping out with a **Committee** role, **please contact: Mr Buckley or Mr McCracken at the Centre on:**

01257 421 048 or email: billmccracken@hotmail.co.uk

Standish Community Centre, Moody Street,
off Church Street, Standish, WN6 0JT



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Wigan Road Labour Club, Leigh

Wigan Road Labour Club, Leigh is available for all voluntary and community groups to use for their meetings, activities and events.

Come and see what this spacious and welcoming club has to offer your group!

Call John at the Club on 01942 510 751

Or send him an email at
john.barton111@tiscali.co.uk

Wigan Road Labour Club. Edna Road, Leigh, Lancashire WN7 5ES

Thank you for reading!

Have a great Spring, from all Board and Staff at
Wigan & Leigh Council for Voluntary Service!

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